



Nelson Mandela
CHILDREN'S FUND®



CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025



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Abbreviations

Department of Social Development	DSD
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative	REPSSI
South African National Childs Rights Coalition	SANCRS
Standard Operating Procedure	SOPs
United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child	UNCRC
Air Traffic Navigation Services Company	ATNS
Ante-Natal Care	ANC
International Canadian Child Rights Partnership	ICCRP
Child Safety and Protection Programme	CSP
Child Survival, Development and Thriving Programme	CSDT
Community Healthcare Workers	CHWs
Development Assistance Committee	DAC
Early Childhood Development	ECD
Gender-Based Violence	GBV
Human Centred Design Thinking	HCdT
Implementing Partners	IP
Income-Generating Activities	IGAs
Legacy Academy	LA
Local Economic Development	LED
Management Trustee Committee	MTC
National Youth Coalition	NYC
Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament	NMCP
Post-Natal Care	PNC
Prevention of Mother-to-child transmission	PMTCT
Request For Proposals	RFP
Savings Mobilisation Programmes	SMP
Self-Help Group	SHG
South Africa Civil Aviation Authority	SACAA
Sustainable Livelihoods Programme	SLP
The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa	EISA
The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund The Fund	NMCF
The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital	NMCH
The World Science Academy	TWAS
Theory of Change	TOC
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	UNESCO
World Science Forum	WSF
Youth Leadership Programme	YLP

Who we are

Vision

Changing the way society treats its children and youth.

Mission

Give voice and dignity to the child by building a rights-based movement.

Strategic Objectives

- Empower families and communities to adequate care (health, safety, nutrition, education, economic, basic services) for their children and the youth.
- Create platforms to amplify the voices of children and the youth.
- Address and influence government shortfalls in relation to children and youth through advocacy and lobbying.
- Create a collaborative environment to amplify the impact of the NMCF on children and the youth through strategic partnerships.
- Diversify and augment sources of income to ensure that the NMCF is financially sustainable and continues to grow its endowment.
- Improve organisational culture, staff engagement, and capability.
- Be the leader in advocating child-related issues in South Africa.

Organisational values

1

Integrity

Ethics, honesty, trustworthiness, transparency, reliability

2

Excellence

Efficiency, innovation, work ethic, striving for the best, thought leadership

3

Inclusivity

Diversity, equity, leaving no one behind

4

Accountability

Effectiveness, ownership, responsibility, intentional

5

Ubuntu

Respect, humanity for all, compassion, empathy, equal treatment, selflessness service, courtesy, kindness



Foreword from The Fund's Chairperson

On 26 June 2025 I was asked to step up to the plate when our then Chairperson Mme Nana Magomola resigned after serving as Trustee of the fund since 2001 and as Interim Chairperson in April 2023 and subsequently as Chairperson between 2024 and 2025. It was a privilege to work closely with this formidable daughter of Bakone, Meladi 'a Moloto! Mokone 'a Mabula! In effect this Chairperson's message is a tribute to your leadership and tenure in the financial year under review.

In the same reporting period, our Deputy Chairperson Ntate Moss Ngoasheng retired as a Trustee effective 31 March 2025. Ntate Moss Ngoasheng Modidima 'a Kgoneng! Mokobela 'a Ramaite; we have been inspired by your dedication since you were associated with the Fund from the inception and founding of the NMCF by our Patron, uTata uNelson Mandela, uYem-Yem, 'Zondwa ziintshaba zingasozwe zimenze nto! Nqolomsila, Aah Dalibunga! Thirty years later, we are proud to uphold your vision—your legacy endures.

It is my singular honour and privilege to present the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Annual Report for the year ending March 2025, marking three decades of focus and commitment to President Mandela's goal of transforming how society treats our children. Guided by Madiba's belief that a society's soul is revealed in how it treats its children, we remain focused on issues affecting children in today's changing world.

“

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

Nelson Mandela

”

This year, our management team developed a new strategy to address the need to future-proof both the immediate needs of the Nelson Mandela Children's hospital and the long-term sustainability of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. This on a quest to recalibrate existing partnerships while pursuing new partnerships and integrated approaches to meet the daunting challenge of securing a better future for our children and youth. The Board also conducted a full review of our governance framework, led by Mr Owen Maubane, to strengthen our structure for future growth.

Recent changes in Board leadership include the appointments of a new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, Mr Rorisang Tshabalala. These transitions reflect a modernization of our governance frameworks ensuring that these are fit for purpose in line with rapid changes in codes of good practice and legislation. Top of mind for the Board is to sustain Madiba's vision while ensuring that successive generations take on the baton of leadership from the eldership generation that were with the Fund since inception. The NMCF and its sister entity the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital benefit from solid leadership anchored in a Fund that is well governed, led by resilient management and high performance staff ensuring that it remains a funding and resource allocation partner of choice. We thank our five outgoing trustees for their long-dedicated service and extend our sincere gratitude on behalf of the Fund:

* Ms Nana Magomola.

* Mr Moss Ngoasheng.

- * Advocate Marumo Moerane.
- * Mr Owen Maubane.
- * Ms Kgodiso Mokonyane.
- * Ms Nonzukiso Siyotula.

Each trustee made substantial contributions to the Fund's mission, dedicating their time and expertise to facilitating access to their networks and effective governance.

The Committees of the Board continue to ensure that our oversight work supports the organisation in the execution of its work. The Fund has maintained a track record of unqualified audit outcomes since its establishment, demonstrating adherence to sound financial management practices and effective internal controls and, ensuring its status of being an organisation that donors can trust with resources.

Looking ahead, our Trustees are unified in their commitment to establishing a robust and diverse Board that exemplifies accountability, transparency, and sustainability. The executive management team has provided consistent and stable leadership, ensuring uninterrupted fulfillment of the Fund's mission. In the coming year, the primary objective will lay a strong foundation for the organisation to implement its new strategic direction.

Programmatic Successes

This year, we celebrate programmatic successes that illustrate both the extensiveness and depth of our impact.

Below are some of the achievements per program:

The Child Safety and Protection (CSP) Programme's main goal is to ensure the safety and protection of children (aged 0-18) in the areas where they live, learn, and play (i.e., home, school, and community). CSP reached 42,117 children this year, a fourfold increase from 9,565 in 2023 through 14 implementing partners and 9 community-based Child Protection Forums across seven provinces. Rooted in local leadership, the programme tackled violence, neglect, and abuse while empowering children to lead change. Stories like 13-year-old Makwarela, who transformed from a bully to a GBV advocate, reflect the programme's deeper impact beyond numbers. Our advocacy amplified children's voices in shaping the National Strategic Plan on GBVF and pioneering work on digital safety is laying the foundation for protecting children online.

The Youth Leadership Programme's (YLP) primary goal is to promote youth leadership and entrepreneurship skills, as well as encourage civic participation of South African youth in decision-making processes. YLP continued to empower young people across South Africa with the skills and platforms to drive change, keeping youth at the centre of decision-making.

Expanding its global reach, YLP leaders represented the Fund at international conferences and exchanges, including collaborations with Northern Ireland youth and contributions to global advocacy curricula. Strategic partnerships with the African Union, UN agencies, and universities deepened youth engagement in policy and research, while a China-Africa green economy exchange linked child advocacy with sustainable development positioning young leaders as powerful voices for change locally and globally.

The Sustainable Livelihoods Programme's (SLP) main goal is to strengthen families economically to cope with their vulnerabilities and work their way out of poverty, so that children can consequently benefit from good health, peace, security, and comfort. SLP empowered 1,395 families and over 5,580 children through 279 new Self-Help Groups across Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West, helping communities build resilience and stability. From savings groups funding education and health needs, to youth-led forums driving development, families are creating lasting change. With 15 groups progressing toward cooperative registration, 2025 marked a year of innovation, solidarity and bold steps toward sustainable economic independence.

The Child Survival, Development and Thriving (CSDT) Programme's main goal is the survival, development, and thriving of children under the age of five years, with a particular emphasis on the first 1000 days of life (including pregnancy). The CSTD programme advanced the Fund's mission to give every child a fair start in life by improving access to healthcare, nutrition, and early learning across six priority districts through 6 partners, 93 community health workers, and 22 ECD centres. The programme reached over 15,600 beneficiaries, delivering 4,800 health screenings, 3,618 immunizations and 1,146 measles vaccinations. It also restored the health and wellbeing of 116 malnourished children, supported 105 family food gardens and established 22 breastfeeding support groups, driving healthier families and communities toward a just and nurturing society for all children.

In addition to the regular programming, in early April 2025, the Fund in partnership with the National Development of Social Development hosted the Africa Children's Summit with 275 children from around the continent. Themed *Seen, Heard And Engaged In Education*, this child-led conference brought together children from 15 African countries to define the Africa that they want.

Following the summit, a call was made from the UNCRC's Prof Phillip Jaffe to consider hosting a global children's summit in 2030. This call reinforces the importance of our work in child participation and advocacy, the progress made in the South African iteration of the event and our commitment in advancing children's rights globally.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, the Fund remains focused on deepening its impact and expanding its reach. We aim to strengthen the voices of children and youth in decision-making, increase opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and enhance our interventions in child protection and safety. Innovation, collaboration and partnerships will continue to be at the heart of our strategy, ensuring that our programmes remain responsive to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. With a focus on sustainability, accountability and inclusivity, we will continue to build on our successes and explore new ways to advance Madiba's vision for a society where every child can thrive.

Conclusion

As the incoming chairperson, I am inspired by our achievements of the last thirty years, the work we are doing and the future we are building. Marking this 30-year milestone fills us with gratitude for our donors, partners, staff, and communities whose commitment has made this journey possible. To our Trustees and executive leadership, thank you for your stewardship and dedication during this period of transition. Above all, to the children and youth we serve, you remain the heart of everything we do. Your resilience inspires us, your courage strengthens us and your dreams continue to guide our vision for a just, safe and nurturing society.

As we look to the future, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund remains steadfast in its mission, ensuring that it creates a world where children thrive on Madiba's legacy and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Mr. Mpho Makwana Chairperson





Message from The Fund's CEO

It is an honour to share highlights of the work undertaken by the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund over the past year.

We awarded grants totalling R26 642 million and implemented our programmes across 9 provinces, reaching a total of 69,491 beneficiaries. In addition, R19 million was granted to the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, enabling life-saving interventions for 13 748 children during the year under review.

This year marks a significant milestone—thirty years of the Fund's existence and unwavering advocacy for the rights and well-being of vulnerable children. Much of the year was dedicated to developing a strategy that will guide us through the first five years of the Fund's next 30-year journey.

Strategic partnerships

Partnerships remain central to our mission:

- We collaborated with Stellenbosch University for the International Child Rights Conference.
- We will be partnering with UCT's Child Witness Institute on the 2025 Child Gauge.
- Discussions are underway with the Wits School of Governance to develop a child-rights-focused executive development programme.
- We successfully applied for Observer Status at the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child—a vital platform for advocating meaningful child participation.

Our partnership with Deloitte led to the release of the Cost of Child Poverty Report in November 2024. The findings are sobering, revealing a future constrained by poverty for many children in South Africa. As one of our youth beneficiaries poignantly stated: **"For most children in South Africa, the sky is not the limit; poverty is the limit."**

We believe it is within our collective power to remove this limitation and unlock the potential of our children.

During the year under review, we continued with resource mobilization efforts and onboarded new donors. As part of our global initiatives, the Fund, for the second year running, hosted the NMCF Cannes Gala Dinner in May 2024, where we received a generous donation from the Magic Johnson Foundation. We are grateful for this donation, as it will go a long way towards supporting the work we do.

We are deeply grateful to Ford Motor Company for its commitment of 30 vehicles over the next three years, empowering us and our community-based partners to continue our work effectively.

"Giving children a healthy start in life, no matter where they are born or the circumstances of their birth, is the moral obligation of every one of us."

Nelson Mandela

Financial health and sustainability

The Fund remains in a sound financial position, supported by robust internal controls that mitigate risks of fraud and financial irregularities. We continue to prioritise diversifying our funding sources to reduce dependency on any single donor.

The USAID funding cuts pose a serious threat to the progress made in paediatric HIV. Our Child Survival, Development, and Thriving Team is working closely with implementing partners to ensure mothers and children maintain access to clinics and do not default on treatment regimens.

Advocacy and child participation

Children's issues appear to be slipping off the public agenda. We must remind ourselves - Children matter, and there can be no human rights without children's rights.

We closed the financial year with a landmark event: the Africa Children's Summit, the first pan-African summit

hosted in South Africa by children, for children. Following our participation in the inaugural summit in Kenya (2023), we partnered with the Department of Social Development to ensure the success of the 2025 edition. The children's Outcome Statement concluded with this powerful plea: **Together, We Can Make a Change!**

"We are the future. We want to learn, grow, and help our countries. We ask our leaders to listen, take action, and work with us to make these dreams come true—for every child, everywhere in Africa."

Gratitude

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our partners, funders, the Board of Trustees, and my dedicated colleagues at the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. Your support enables us to build a future where children are empowered to thrive and reach their full potential.

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo CA(SA), PHD
Chief Executive Officer



NMCF Financial results at a glance

R000	1995-2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Cumulative
Income													
Children's Hospital Project Income	772 880	37 534	26 935	34 715	15 369	22 150	24 985	13 868	101 465	69 613	33 698	23 069	1 176 280
Mott Foundation Endowment*	30 899	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30 899
Investment Income / (Loss)	17 055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17 055
	550 500	63 517	115 322	80 268	49 994	52 401	-32 114	184 431	68 298	57 104	120 909	145 921	1 456 552
Total Income	1 371 334	101 051	142 257	114 983	65 363	74 551	-7 129	198 299	169 763	126 717	154 607	168 990	2 680 786
Less													
Programme Development expenditure	-107 996	-12 445	-10 508	-6 366	-7 403	-12 116	-9 583	-9 748	-12 220	-66 739	-21 207	-21 036	-297 366
Operation & Administration expenditure	-123 289	-13 218	-15 172	-14 302	-14 108	-14 043	-15 668	-14 980	-27 124	-24 783	-20 617	-22 268	-319 572
Operation & Admin Recovery from Designated Funds	-23 834	-554	-396	-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-24 799
Special Projects	-2 050	-221	-195	-108	-124	-160	-224	-	-	-686	-320	-330	-2 050
Annual Children's Celebration	-529	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2 368
Advancement of the Status of Women	-3 098	-	-250 000	-	-	-	-	-	-199	-821	-	-	-529
Children's Hospital Project	-604	-	-110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-254 118
Story of the Fund	-2 673	-598	-335	-36	-90	-170	-543	-	-	-	-	-236	-950
Youth Parliaments	-291 873	-27 036	-276 716	-20 827	-21 725	-26 489	-26 018	-24 728	-39 543	-93 028	-42 144	-43 870	-4 445
Total Expenditure	-475 799	-20 296	-8 557	-15 436	-6 677	-10 038	-7 398	-7 164	-43 277	-16 147	-32 479	-26 642	-933 997
Grants Approved	603 662	53 719	-143 016	78 720	36 961	38 024	-40 545	166 407	86 943	17 541	79 983	98 478	0
Net Funds Received	1 371 334	101 051	142 257	114 983	65 363	74 551	-7 129	198 299	169 763	126 717	154 607	168 990	2 680 786
Donations Income vs Total Programme Expenses and Grants													
R000	1995 - 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Donations Income (incl. Children's Hospital Project Income and Mott Foundation Endowment)	820 834	37 534	26 935	34 715	15 369	22 150	24 985	13 868	101 465	69 613	33 698	23 069	1 224 234
Less: Total Programme Expenses & Grants	592 145	33 560	269 595	21 946	14 294	22 484	17 748	16 912	55 696	83 572	53 366	47 348	1 228 667
Grants & Programme Expenses as a % of Donations Income	72%	89%	1001%	63%	93%	102%	71%	122%	55%	120%	158%	205%	100%



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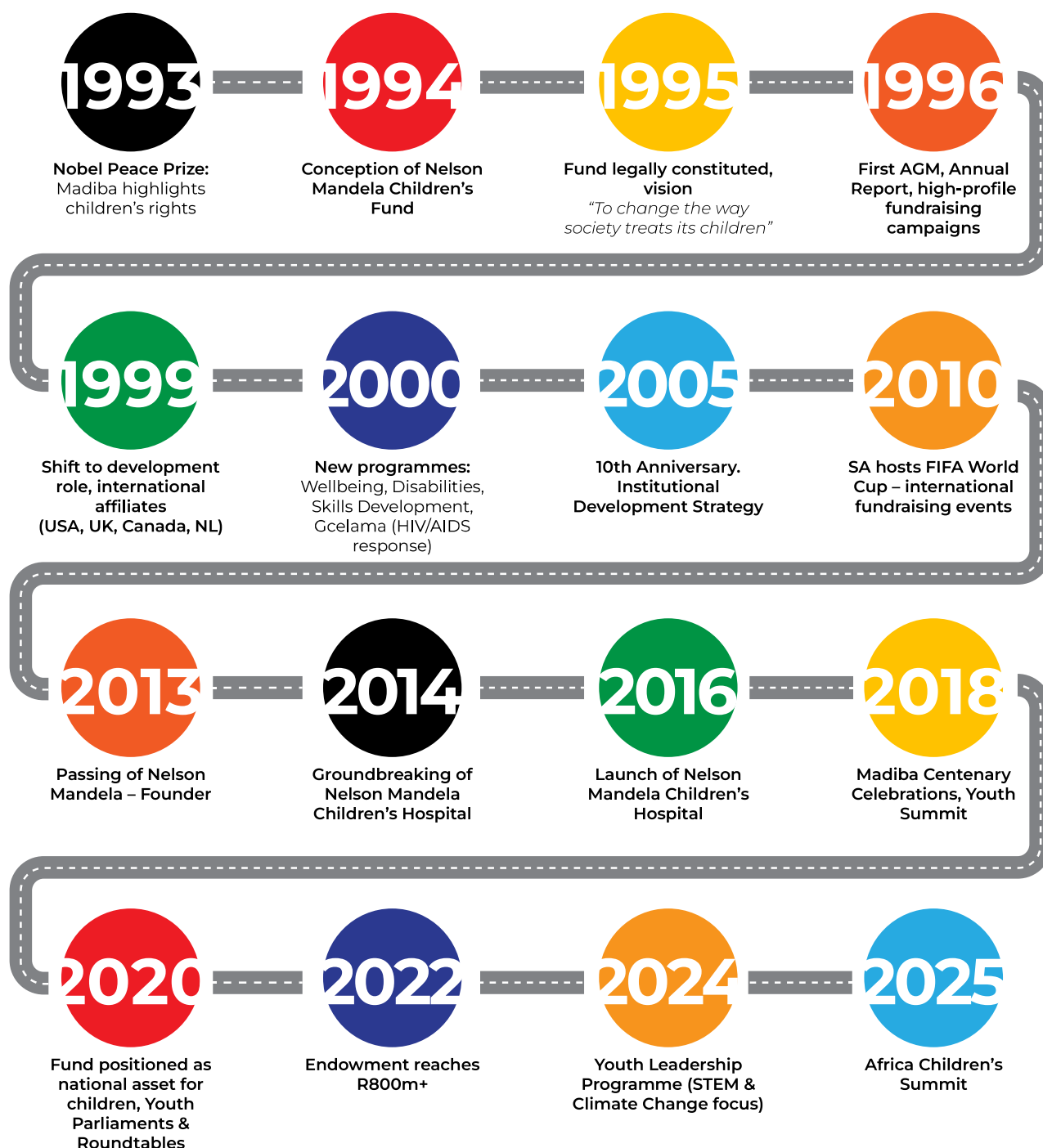
CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

30 *years*
of impacting
children's lives

30 Years at a glance

Key milestones since founding

Our journey: A timeline of transformation (1995 – 2025)



Employees with Dedicated Years of Service



Vincent Kgomo 29 years of service

I started at the Fund on 21 August 1995, attracted by the opportunity to understand what it was about, the difference it would make for the children of this country, and what contribution I could make to support an initiative started by the first president of our democratic country, Mr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

From my initial position as an Admin Assistant, I grew to understand processes required to run an organisation such as the NMCF, including contracting and drawing cheques paid to different NGOs and CBOs. From being an all-rounder doing photocopies, board packs, and deliveries to managing a grants management system and later becoming a Project Officer engaging with various IPs, was an amazing experience. Now I am working in finance, which is my passion to ensure that The Fund's resources are utilised properly and always accounted for.

My memorable moment was meeting Mr. Mandela for the first time when he came to see our offices. Later, we had a tea session as a larger contingent of staff to understand his aspirations regarding the Fund, where each staff member had an opportunity to speak and ask him questions.

Being part of the organisation that evolved from making small once-off grants to larger grants has helped the Fund grow in attracting donors. It gave me an opportunity to capacitate funded NGOs in managing larger grants and allowed the Fund to set footprints in hard-to-reach areas such as remote areas in KZN and Northern Cape.

Through working with different CEOs, I have seen the Fund transform from small grants to larger, long-term ones, sustaining itself and adapting to challenges affecting children from HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and disabilities, to now GBV, cyberbullying, and poverty.

Being with the Fund for a long time re-affirms my alignment with what it stands for. "The work must continue to ensure that children receive the support needed and opportunities to grow."

"Meeting Mr. Mandela and hearing his vision for the Fund remains one of my most memorable experiences."

Meeting Mr. Mandela and hearing his vision for the Fund remains one of my most memorable experiences.



Bongani Mbelle 26 Years of Service

I joined the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund on 11 November 1999 as a Driver. From the very beginning, I felt proud to be part of an organization founded by Mr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, an organization dedicated to children, their wellbeing, and their future. It was not just a job for me, but an opportunity to serve in a place that carried Tata's vision and values.

My responsibilities went far beyond driving. I was entrusted with delivering important documents such as board packs to the Trustees, collecting donations from generous donors, and transporting toys and other gifts for children. Each task, no matter how big or small, felt meaningful because I knew it was helping the Fund touch lives.

One of my most memorable moments was meeting Tata Madiba himself. I still treasure the day I shook his hand, stood beside him, and took pictures both at the office and during the Fund's events. His warmth and humility left a deep mark on me. But the moment I cherish most was attending the Christmas Children's Event in Qunu, Eastern Cape. I had the privilege of driving a truck full of donations from Johannesburg all the way to Qunu, where the children celebrated Christmas with Madiba. Seeing the joy on their faces reminded me why the Fund's work is so important.

Looking back, my proudest achievement is knowing that I have played a small role in keeping Tata's dream alive. Being with the Fund for so many years has given me joy, purpose, and the assurance that I have contributed to something greater than myself.

To the current and future employees of the Fund, my plea is simple: work hard, remain committed, and always remember the vision on which the Fund was built. Continue to raise funding and support for children, so that Tata's dream does not die in our hands.

Together, we must carry forward his legacy of hope, dignity, and love for children.

Together, we must carry forward Tata Nelson Mandela's legacy of hope dignity and love for children.



Shadi Nyokong 24 years of service

I joined the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in 2001. This was big for me because I was joining an organisation started by one of the most respected people in the world, Mr Mandela. This was a South African organisation, started by a South African for South African children. It was an honor to join a community dedicated to bettering the lives of children and young people of this country.

I started as Project Officer with responsibilities in grants management and resource mobilisation. Over the years, my position evolved with the Fund's strategies, from Project Officer (2001–2010) to Programme Specialist (2010–2015) and now Programme Manager (2016–date). This involved managing programme budgets, contributing to strategy reviews, developing action plans, tracking milestones, representing the Fund locally and internationally, presenting at conferences, writing papers, and attending training programmes.

At programme implementation level, my knowledge of children's programmes and community responses improved, including child policies, child participation, family programmes, fundraising, community mobilisation, monitoring, evaluation, research, and partnerships. I was part of a team that developed the Goelama Programme and led projects such as court support for child witnesses, children living and working on the street, children living with disabilities, home-based early childhood care, and child and maternal care.

My proudest moment was presenting the home-based early childhood development programme at a conference, where a gentleman said, "You were born for this," referring to my passion for younger children. It is always rewarding to see communities appreciating how my work improved their service to children, and through the Fund, I contributed to the career development of heads of some grassroots organisations.

I was fortunate to experience leadership from three Chief Executive Officers – Mr Dangor, Dr Mkhabela, Ms Gugushe and Dr Ncube-Nkomo. I learnt different leadership styles, the importance of adapting, and was given the freedom to learn, make mistakes, and challenge myself. My journey with them, peers, managers, and beneficiaries made me a better person.

"Always put a child at the centre of your work, and value honesty, respect, and collaboration."

This has been an incredible journey. I have grown personally and professionally. NMCF is a community of teamwork and excellence, and my legacy is empowering future employees to take risks and challenge the status quo.

Always put a child at the centre of your work, and value honesty, respect, and collaboration.



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CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Fund's Sustainable Development Goals and Focus Areas

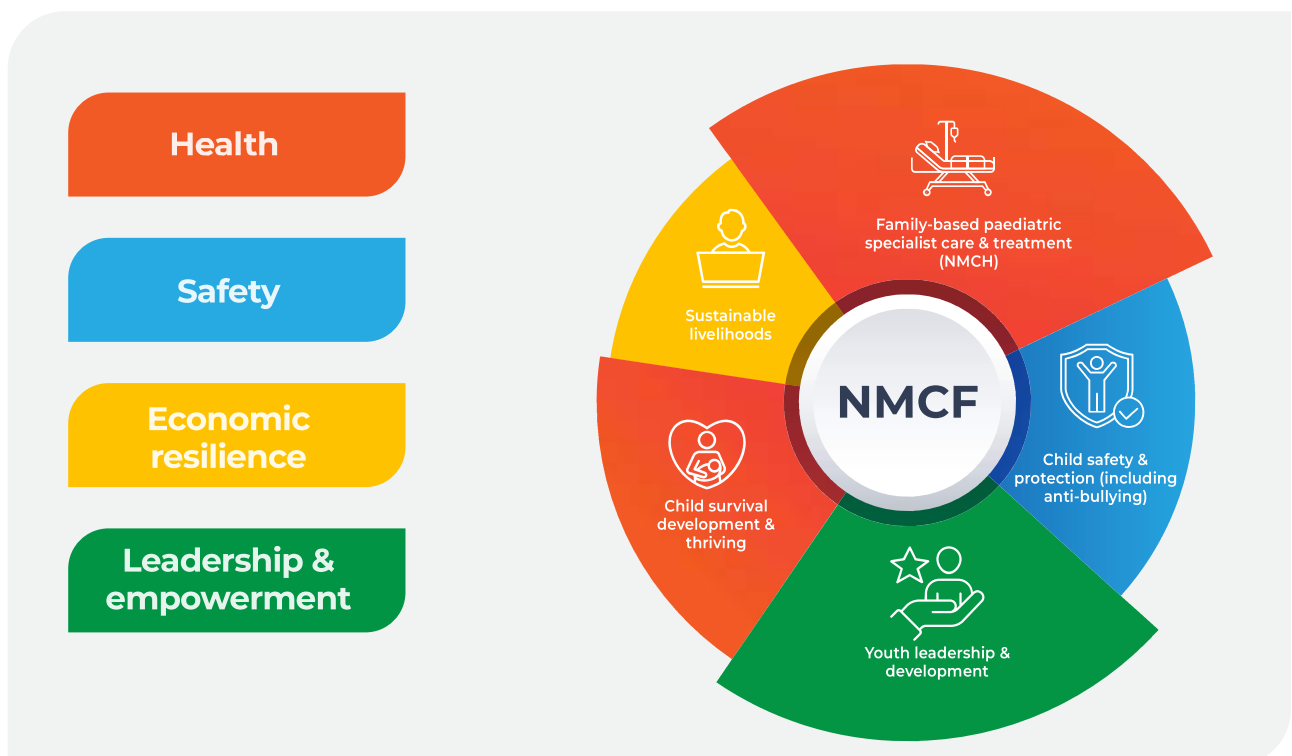


The Fund's Sustainable Development goals and focus areas



Our programmes

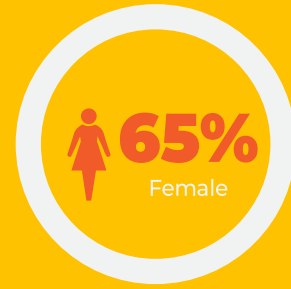
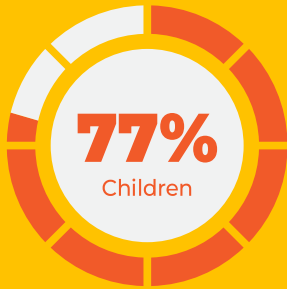
Focus areas & programmes



Impact in numbers

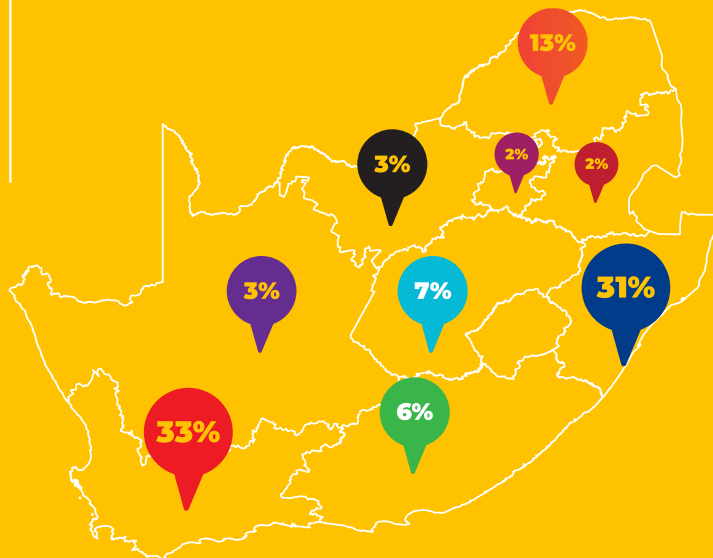
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Beneficiaries

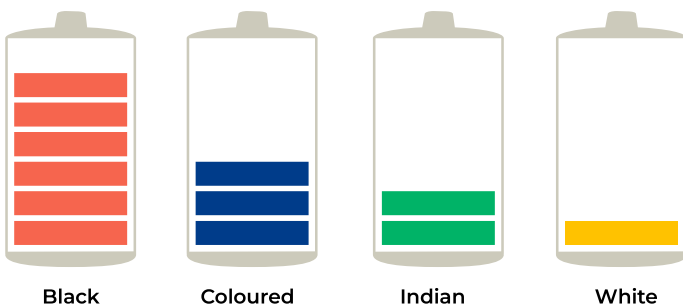


We work in all 9 provinces

These are the percentage of beneficiaries per province



- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape



Rural or underdeveloped communities



Programme Overview & Highlights

Our work focuses on four major areas: child health, child safety, youth empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods. These four focus areas give rise to five core programmes: Child health, child safety, youth empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods.



Child health

The focus of the **Child Survival Development and Thriving Programme (CSDT)** is on improving the health of children in their first 1 000 days (including pregnancy) with interventions ranging from treating Severe Acute Malnutrition to vaccination and fortification drives.

The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (NMCH), one of only two hospitals dedicated to children's health in South Africa, provides world-class paediatric services to all families, regardless of their financial means.



Child safety

Child Safety and Protection Programmes ensure that children are protected in all aspects of their lives, enabling them to learn, thrive, and reach their full potential. While much attention is given to the risks children face in physical spaces such as schools and homes, the programme is increasingly expanding its efforts into the critical and rapidly evolving domain of digital safety.

In the 2024/2025 financial year, nine Child Protection Forums (CPFs) were established or strengthened in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Northern Cape, and Western Cape through the efforts of community-based organisations. This marks an increase from six forums in the 2023/2024 year.



Youth empowerment

The **Youth Leadership Programme** promotes youth leadership and entrepreneurial skills through initiatives such as the Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament, STEM bootcamps, as well as guiding young people to become change makers in their communities through the Legacy Academy.



Sustainable livelihoods

The **Sustainable Livelihoods Programme** is transforming communities by helping families build lasting economic resilience. Through initiatives like Self-Help Groups and youth-led enterprises, it creates real income-generating opportunities that empower people to break poverty.

Key highlights from the African Children's Summit 2025

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) played a leading role in advancing child-led advocacy through its coordination of the African Children's Summit (ACS).

- Preparatory events: NMCF supported child-led country pre-summits, hosted a South African pre-summit for 40 young people in November 2024 and facilitated a continent-wide digital pre-summit in February 2025; organised and led by children themselves.
- Main summit: The ACS was held from 4th to 7th April 2025 at Roodepan School in Johannesburg. Building on the first ACS in Nairobi in 2023, this second edition was fully child-led and brought together 313 children from 15 African countries (including online participants) and 77 adult allies, totalling 390 participants.

The children of Africa voiced their collective demands to governments and leaders, calling for:

1. Free and fair education for all, including support for children from low-income families and inclusive learning for children with disabilities.
2. Safe and well-equipped school facilities with clean water, toilets, transport, and playgrounds.
3. Access to learning tools and technology like books, stationery, computers, and AI.
4. More trained, supportive teachers who understand diverse learning needs and languages.
5. An end to discrimination and harmful traditions such as early marriage and gender bias.
6. Family economic support to reduce school dropouts caused by poverty.
7. Safe environments at home and school, free from violence, abuse, and bullying.
8. Child participation in decision-making and inclusion of children with disabilities in school life and sports.
9. Safe use of technology with protection from harmful online content.
10. Healthy minds and bodies with school meals, mental health support, menstrual health resources, comprehensive sexuality education, and action against substance abuse.

Together, We Can Make a Change! We are the future. We want to learn, grow, and help our countries. We ask our leaders to listen, take action, and work with us to make these dreams come true—for every child, everywhere in Africa.

These themes are echoed across documents and the statements from both 2023 and 2025 summits “consistently echo the message that children are capable change agents and demand respect for their voices”.

Highlights for Children's Issues in South Africa

- Child Rights Conference: Partnered with the University of Stellenbosch to co-host the First International Conference on Children's Rights, which brought together diverse child rights experts to shape a unified national agenda. Inspired by its success, NMCF and Stellenbosch will co-host a larger 2025 conference focused on children's digital safety.
- Child Poverty Report: On the 2nd November 2023, in partnership with Deloitte, NMCF launched the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Child Poverty Report, which revealed that South Africa spends 10% of its GDP (R700 billion annually) on tackling child poverty, yet sees minimal improvement while losing R1.3 trillion in potential economic value due to children being excluded from economic participation.
- National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children (NSAAC): NMCF contributed, as part of the Technical Task Team alongside the Presidency of South Africa, to develop this national strategy, which was referenced in the President's State of the Nation Address. The NSAAC aims to build a South Africa that truly prioritises its children.

A Comprehensive report of the ACS is available on our website.

Child Survival, Development And Thriving Programme (CSDT)

Introduction

The Child Survival and Development Programme (CSDT) main focus is to alleviate preventable child mortality due to lack of access to services. CSDT is designed to improve the care system for children under the age of five, focusing on the most vulnerable community members: infants, young children (under the age of five years), and pregnant women. Guided by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3.2), it works to end preventable deaths and ensure children not only survive but thrive.

By delivering customised family-level health support, CSDT improves nutrition, promotes good health, and strengthens families and communities. Its ultimate aim is to build a responsive care system that gives infants in the first 1000 days of their lives, including caregivers, pregnant and lactating mothers, men, and children, the best start in life.

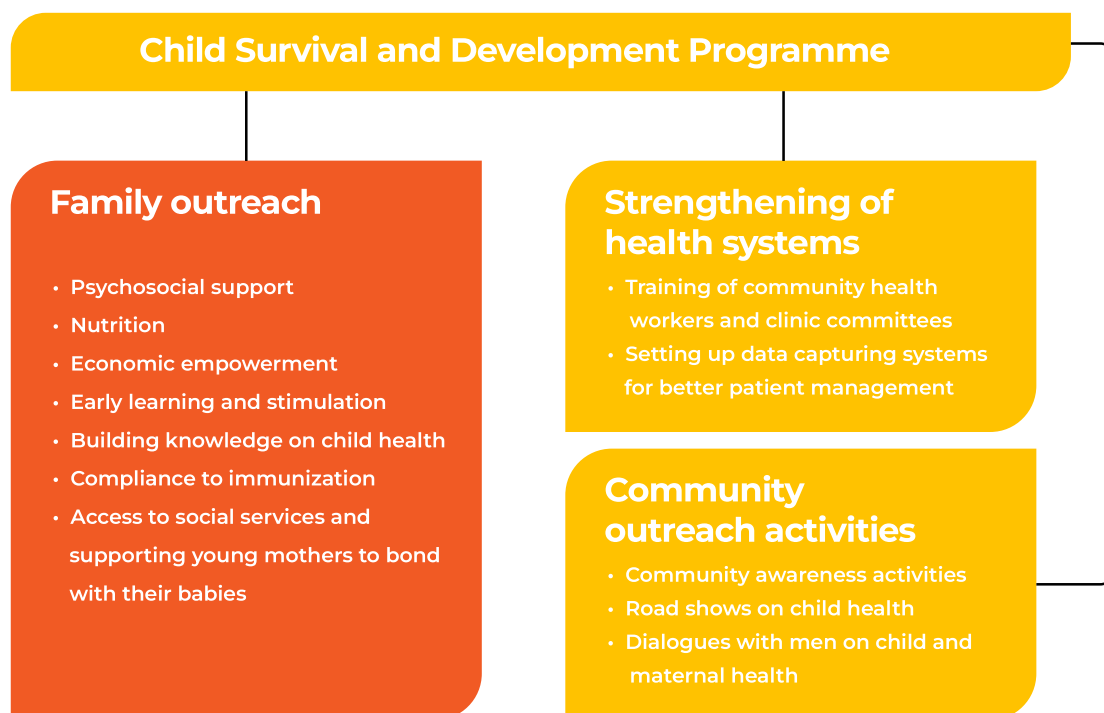
CSDT Approach:

The implementation of the CSDT programme is guided by three core areas that are critical for the survival of children. These are:

- Family outreach
- Community outreach activities
- Strengthening of health systems.

In line with its objectives, CSDT has collaborated with organisations working in these core areas.

Each core area is implemented through a set of activities highlighted below:



CSDT operates at both strategic and grassroots levels to achieve its goals. At the grassroots level, the programme uses context-based empirical evidence to collaborate with and influence high-level operators such as the Department of Health (DOT).

At the grassroots level, CSDT works through community-based implementing partners. The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) supports these partners with grants and technical assistance to deliver targeted interventions for families and communities. These interventions include behaviour change communication, training, and ongoing supportive assessments. **CSDT is active in the following six districts that are still recording high numbers of child mortality:**

Name of IP	Province	District / municipality
Humana People to People in South Africa	KwaZulu Natal	Zululand / eDumbe
Hoedspruit Training Trust	Limpopo	Mopani / Hoedspruit
Kopana ke Maatla	Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe / Heuningvlei
Lulamaphiko	KwaZulu Natal	Zululand / Pongola
One to One Children Fund SA	Eastern Cape	OR Tambo / Nyandeni
Well Being Africa	Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni / Acornhoek

At the higher level, CSDT focuses on advocacy, engaging with government departments and private organisations, and striving to collaborate with these stakeholders and influence policy and practice in the communities where the interventions are in operation. CSDT also serves as a capacity-building body as it capacitates its implementing partners by providing them with programme, financial and advocacy training.

Achievements

1. Improved health and development for children under the five including increased immunisation and improved hygiene practices

During the period under review, health screening and assessments for common childhood illnesses were conducted on 4806 children under the age of five. These were carried out at local clinics, during mobile clinic days, and through home visits. The assessments included screening for common childhood illnesses, growth monitoring using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (**MUAC**) tape to detect malnutrition in children and pregnant women, as well as deworming and **Tuberculosis (TB)** screening.

From these assessments and screenings, 3 618 children ranging from three months to eight years received age-appropriate immunisations. Caregivers were also trained through workshops on how to interpret and follow the Department of Health's Road-to-Health card, a vital record of a child's health, growth, and development during the first five years of life. This card guides parents about clinic visits, nutrition, hygiene, and protecting children from injury and disease.

During home visits, families were educated about the importance of early antenatal bookings, attending postnatal care, proper nutrition, and maintaining good hygiene practices.

In April 2024, parts of South Africa experienced a measles outbreak. In response, NMCF coordinated targeted vaccination campaigns in CSDT project sites, working with local clinics and district health offices.

In April 2024, parts of South Africa experienced a Measles outbreak. In response, the NMCF, in the sites where CSDT projects are active, such as local clinics and the district health office, coordinated targeted vaccination campaigns. These campaigns coincided with World Immunisation Week and provided health assessments followed by clinical referrals where needed. A total of 1 146 children between the ages of six months and five years old were vaccinated against the disease.

Community sessions were also held to share information about child health, particularly with men in the community. As a result, thirty-eight (38) men visited clinics for their health checks, and eight (8) took their children for clinic appointments.

2. Behaviour changes in practicing good nutrition

A total of one hundred and sixteen (116) cases of malnutrition were identified among children between the ages of two to six years; one hundred (100) in the Zululand District, KwaZulu-Natal and sixteen (16) in the OR Tambo District, Eastern Cape. To restore these children to healthy growth and weight, special home visits were carried out. During these visits, families received supplements, nutrient-rich porridge, and food packs.

Follow-up showed significant improvement in the children enrolled in the rehabilitation programme. Parents were also trained on key practices, including adhering to medical treatment and immunisations, establishing home vegetable gardens, improving family nutrition, and the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding.

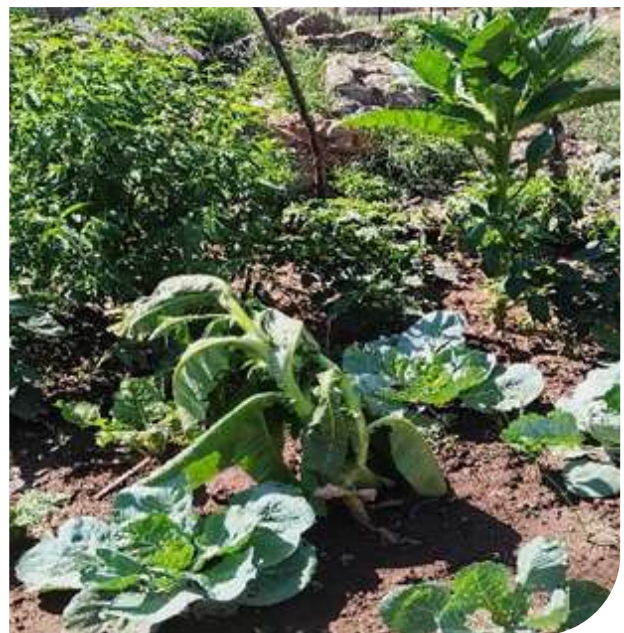
These sessions have shown positive results, leading to the formation of a 22-member breastfeeding support group and the establishment of food gardens by one hundred and five (105) families.

The CSDT ran a health promotion and awareness campaign in the Mopani District (Limpopo), focusing on nutrition and vaccination. This site had been facing shortages of Vitamin A supplements and deworming doses for children under the age of five years. During the event, 1 328 children received Vitamin A doses and were also immunised to protect them from life-threatening illnesses.

Alongside the vaccinations, caregivers learnt about the importance of good nutrition, foods rich in Vitamin A and how to prepare balanced meals with the right nutrients. The campaign also promoted healthy eating habits, the value of home gardening, mental health awareness, and access to social services thus offering a holistic approach to child and family wellbeing.



Breastfeeding education



Garden in Northern Cape Province

3. Growth aligned with developmental milestones

Implementing partners are collaborating with twenty-two (22) early childhood centres (ECDs) to provide early learning and stimulation services to children under the age of five years. The goal is to ensure that children grow according to developmental milestones. This was achieved by supporting children's health, growth, development and learning. At four (4) of the twenty-two (22) centres, thirty-five (35) workshops were held to encourage parents to adhere to clinic appointments, particularly for growth monitoring and immunisations. These sessions also equipped both parents and ECD practitioners with the skills to interpret the Road to Health card, which contains vital information on child health and nutrition. The ECD centres were further used as service points for child health services, while workshops promoted the establishment of vegetable gardens at both the centres and in family homes. These efforts have sparked increased enrolment at the centres. In Pongola, for example, fifty-two (52) of the hundred (100) children identified with malnutrition, many who had never attended an ECD centre before, are now enrolled at the four (4) centres participating in the project.



Household gardens started by parents

At the OR Tambo district in the Eastern Cape, one hundred and twenty (120) caregivers were trained in responsive parenting, equipping them with practical skills to support and stimulate their children's early learning at home. Attention was again given, during home visits, to children not attending ECD centres because their caregivers could not afford the fees. A family-based ECD intervention was introduced through home visits to enhance the development of young children during home visits. Seventy-seven (77) home visits assessed developmental challenges and created tailored interventions based on the assessment reports.

4. Training

Thirty-eight (38) community healthcare workers (CHWs) were recruited to support and educate pregnant women, new mothers and families on improving the health and well-being of their children under the age of five years, both during antenatal and postnatal periods. The newly appointed CHWs received training on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, neonatal care, immunisation, nutrition, growth monitoring, exclusive breastfeeding, as well as maternal mental health. The training also included early learning and stimulation to ensure that children in the programme are supported through key developmental stages. In total, the project now operates with ninety-three (93) community healthcare workers.

5. Identification and selection of beneficiaries

Between January and April 2024, the focus of the CSDT programme was on identifying and selecting beneficiary families. Implementing partners had registered 15 641 beneficiaries, including children under five, their mothers, caregivers, fathers/men, as well as both once-off and recurring beneficiaries for the financial year 2025.

To support service delivery, thirty-eight (38) community healthcare workers and field workers were recruited. In addition, fifty-five farms (55) and fifty-one (51) villages were registered as service points. The network of key stakeholders also grew to include twenty-two (22) early childhood development centres, two (2) hospitals and nine (9) clinics as a result, strengthening the system that delivers health services to children under the age of five.

Lessons learnt

The CSDT hosted a learning and sharing session where six implementing partners (IPs) of maternal and child health projects shared their experiences and insights about the programme's implementation. The session also promoted collaboration and strengthened the collective impact of the organisations involved in child survival, development, and thriving efforts.

During the session, IPs explored new ways to strengthen their programmes and identified key advocacy priorities and approaches to influence policy and practices. The platform will continue to be used for presenting baseline evaluation findings, with experts in child and maternal health invited to share insights, introduce new concepts, and provide feedback on the implementation of the CSDT programme.

The IPs valued this collective space, shared their experiences and to learn from one another. Participants noted that the session enriched their understanding of effective approaches and inspired their commitment to advancing child survival, development, and thriving. This collaborative space reinforced the importance of continued learning and partnerships as key drivers for the success of the CSDT Programme. .

Participants engaging in a learning and sharing session.



Highlights for the year

One of the project's key highlights was a community-driven effort uniting parents, clinics, dieticians, hospitals and early childhood development centres that successfully helped malnourished children regain healthy weight and growth. Consistent collaboration and engagement among the stakeholders are key factors that contributed to the success of this activity, which included a functional and systematic tracking of malnourished children. Participating parents are now complying with treatment and immunisation for the targeted one hundred (100) children who are now out of danger and are recovering. For the second year of the project, the plan is to provide grants and document the model to support future scaling.

Another key observation is the lack of a standardised training programme for community health care workers (CHWs). Reports have highlighted the need for comprehensive training that includes child and maternal health. To influence practices and policies, the CSDT plans to document and roll out a training programme, working closely with the Department of Health and academic partners like universities to incorporate essential modules and topics. The goal is to ensure the holistic development of CHWs, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to deliver high-quality health services.

A recent report revealed a positive and unexpected shift: more men and fathers are stepping up as active caregivers; taking their children to clinic appointments and, surprisingly, seeking healthcare for themselves too. This challenges the long-held assumption, especially prevalent in many South African and broader African communities, that caregiving is solely a woman's responsibility. Community dialogues and men-only discussion groups are playing a key role in reshaping these traditional norms, encouraging fathers to embrace their vital role in their children's health and well-being.

To encourage mothers to breastfeed their babies, they are provided with the following information:

- Importance of breastfeeding and the benefits of breast milk on babies
- How to store breast milk (especially for working moms or moms who are away from their babies for some time).
- Good nutrition and healthy eating for breastfeeding moms
- Overcoming common breastfeeding challenges, for example. nipple soreness, engorgement, etc
- Pumping and storing milk

The platform creates a safe space where pregnant women and mothers can share their experiences, concerns and emotions with others who offer empathy and encouragement. Through these sessions, the organisation successfully shifted the mindset of some of the women who had not planned to breastfeed, or who had intended to breastfeed for just a short time, encouraging them to embrace longer-term breastfeeding.

Impact Stories

One of the core activities of the CSDT programme is supporting breastfeeding mothers. In one site, clinic nurses raised concerns that many women, especially teenage mothers, were choosing not to breastfeed due to myths such as breastfeeding causing sagging breasts or weight gain. As a result, many babies were being fed formula instead, highlighting the need for stronger awareness and support around the benefits of breastfeeding.

Kedibone (not her real name) is 19 years old. She attended antenatal classes during her pregnancy, where she told the field workers that she would not breastfeed her baby (based on the above reasons). When field workers informed her about the importance and benefits of breastfeeding her baby, she was then recruited and encouraged to attend a breastfeeding support group. Kedibone joined the sessions alongside other recruited mothers, where they received guidance, support, and encouragement to practise exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of their babies' lives. The organisation believes that mothers who are supported and well-informed are far more likely to continue breastfeeding for longer.

Kedibone is an example of the CSDT's impact on the survival, development and thriving of children in the first five years of life who changed their mind about breastfeeding their baby. After giving birth, Kedibone has been exclusively breastfeeding for two months now and intends to continue for at least six months.



Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (SLP)

Introduction

The **Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (SLP)** is a dynamic initiative designed to uplift families economically, socially, and to empower them with the necessary life-changing skills to break cycles of vulnerability to secure a better future for their children and youth.

Through this programme, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) has empowered targeted communities to form **Self-Help Groups** that enabled them to unlock their potential and to the confidence and capabilities needed to tackle poverty and related social challenges head-on, which will bring stability within the households in the interest of their children's wellbeing.



Mealie field belonging to SLP Youth CAMP Self- Help Group in Thohoyandou - Limpopo.

SLP Self-Help Group Approach:

The SLP adopts a **Self-Help Group (SHG)** approach that has demonstrated meaningful impact across various communities using **Community Core Structures**, providing a collaborative platform to tackle challenges faced by local families. SHGs are composed of family members and community members in the NMCF's targeted areas.

Composition of a Self-Help Group

A Self-Help Group consists of five (5) to a maximum of ten (10) members due to administrative challenges. SHGs are guided through the following core development steps to build their effectiveness and sustainability:

- Introduction to group formation and how to maintain group cohesion.
- Recognising the value of commitment and the importance of active participation in the group.
- Clarifying group structure as well as the roles and responsibilities of group members
- Understanding and practising collective savings through the savings mobilisation programme and the importance of the group's contributions in the 'Savings Pot'
- Managing Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) to generate additional income from their Savings Pot.
- Maintaining accurate records by tracking contributions and transactions at group and individual levels.
- Facilitating effective group meetings.
- Launching income-generating activities.
- Planning and managing group and personal budgets.
- Understanding the process and benefits of evolving from a Self-Help Group into a Community Registered Cooperative.

Self-Help Groups are supported and guided by Community Facilitators (also known as Ground Managers). These Community Facilitators are supervised by a Coordinator who then reports to the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (SLP) Manager at the NMCF. These achievements show how the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme is transforming lives by helping families move from vulnerability to stability through collective savings, skills development, and entrepreneurship. By strengthening households and empowering communities, the programme is creating lasting opportunities for children to grow up in healthier, more secure environments.



Children benefitting from Self-Help Groups savings programme in KwaZulu Natal.

Lesson Learnt

Lessons learnt from the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme highlight both its remarkable successes and the challenges encountered along the way, offering valuable insights for strengthening and scaling the initiative.

Successes

- The programme helps poor communities to break free from poverty.
- Small monies matter as the Saving Mobilisation Programme has demonstrated that small savings can do wonders as long as groups are disciplined to contribute regularly towards their Savings Pot from as little as R20.00 per person per month (R5.00 per week).
- Regular updates and the submission of monthly activity reports build confidence with SLP implementation on the ground and assist the NMCF to meet its objectives.
- Well-managed income-generating initiatives are creating jobs for young people in fields such as agriculture, sewing, and block making, just to mention a few activities.
- Well-planned SHG's monthly meetings and provincial exchange programme are yielding positive results.

Challenges

- Poor Government service delivery, such as limited access to clean water, inadequate infrastructure and other basic services in rural areas, makes it difficult for SHGs to manage their socio-economic affairs.
- Climate change has also impacted the groups with recurring floods, drought, foot-and-mouth disease, and bird flu outbreaks.
- Insufficient funding limits the groups' ability to top up their savings to purchase equipment for their businesses and income-generating activities (IGAs).
- The absence of formal banking services in rural communities prevents groups from safely saving and managing group and individual funds.
- High costs of business management and financial literacy leave groups without critical skills to manage and grow their livelihood initiatives.

Highlights of the Year

There were a few highlights for the financial year, including:

- The formation of two hundred and seventy-nine (279) Self-Help Groups in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and North West provinces.
- The SLP has provided support to 1 395 families and reached 5 580 children through its various activities.
- A total of fifty-four (54) income-generating projects have been established under the programme.
- Around 20% of these projects focus on agriculture, showing strong results in areas such as poultry and vegetable production.
- The CAMP Youth SHG in Limpopo has secured four (4) hectares of land used to plant yellow habanero peppers, green peppers, and bird's eye chillies.
- The sheep-rearing group is producing high-quality wool and uses the profits from their sales to supply a local school with sanitary pads.
- The Bontle group in North West Province is operating a successful piggery business.
- The Group Exchange Programme between groups from Limpopo and the Free State has shown positive results and is now hosting their young men's forum and diversifying their agriculture activities with the support of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.
- Nine youth groups in Limpopo have formed a Sustainable Livelihoods Partners group to raise funds for sanitary towels for schools in Thohoyandou and to support the local youth facing socio-economic challenges.
- Fifteen (15) SHGs in Limpopo are acquiring registration as cooperatives before the end of the financial year.
- Gondolashu Nursery, managed by the Youth SHG, sold four thousand (4500) cabbage seedlings and used the profit to purchase goats. .



SLP site inspection in Maungani Village.

The SLP has achieved the following since its introduction in the NMCF's targeted areas:

- There are currently five hundred and eighty-one (581) active Self -Help Groups (SHGs) operating in the targeted areas.
- The programme has 4 140 active members across these groups.
- Collectively, the programme has reached 4 140 families represented in each SHG.
- Parents, in the SLP Saving Mobilisation Programme, have been able to fund their children's education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Many of these children have successfully graduated in different fields such as Engineering, Health, Education and Agriculture.
- Savings from the programme, income has also helped families afford healthcare, thus improving their overall wellbeing.
- To date, more than R10 million has been saved through the Savings Mobilisation Programme.
- These savings have enabled parents to purchase groceries and provide nutritious food for their families.
- The programme has built 220 new homes and renovated more than 127 homes in KwaZulu-Natal, North West, and the Free State.
- In rural Eshowe (KwaZulu-Natal), 58 latrines were built to deal with issues of sanitation.
- SHGs are operating a variety of income-generating activities such as block-making, poultry farming, video production, sewing of clothes and school uniforms, and crafting artefacts, just to name a few activities.
- So far, 32 SHGs have successfully transitioned into fully registered cooperatives under the Department of SmallBusiness.

Impact Stories

New Mind Made Innovation: Visionary videographer

New Mind Made Innovation was established on the 24th January 2014 as a creative enterprise specialising in audio-visual (A/V) solutions. The cooperative was formally registered in 2016, following a deliberate period of gaining in-depth knowledge of the film industry, including its rules, regulations, and standards.

The company is hundred-percent youth- and black-owned and is driven by a dedicated team of young creatives who are committed to delivering high-quality work and ensuring client satisfaction. The idea behind the company was rooted in a vision to share inspiring local stories that encourage individuals to create their own opportunities. Today, New Mind Made Innovation primarily focuses on producing documentaries and corporate videos, guided by its mission to highlight extraordinary people by telling their stories.

Before partnering with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) through its Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (SLP), the co-operative concentrated on income-generating projects, building a strong client base for children's parties, funerals, school events, and graduation ceremonies. However, it faced significant constraints, particularly a lack of professional equipment and other essential resources.

Over the past eight (8) years, the co-operative has produced five (5) videos for the NMCF under the SLP, working in close collaboration with the Programmes Manager and Communications Team. More recently, it produced a video for the Child Survival, Development & Thriving initiative. In the last four years, New Mind Made Innovation has developed a strong working relationship with Young Mbazo, a group from KwaZulu-Natal that represents the third generation of the legendary Ladysmith Black Mambazo. The company has produced a music video celebrating its five-year journey with the SLP unit and an international tour video for the group. One of its notable highlights was producing a music video featuring Young Mbazo and acclaimed Sabrina Francis from Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago.



New Mind Made Innovation youth group in KwaZulu Natal filming block making project.

Gundo Madzie: Upcoming young farmer



Gundo Madzie, a 21-year-old from Tswinga village, joined the SLP in January 2025. Together with his colleagues, he raised funds through part-time jobs and decided to start farming in Maungani, where they rented a family farmstead.

The group began by planting seven hundred-and-two (702) maize plants on one hectare of land. They harvested the maize and sold it to local markets and vendors. With the profits, they hired one full-time field worker to help as they expanded their operations. They increased their farmland to four hectares and planted mustard spinach, green peppers, and tomatoes. These crops were sold at local markets, and some were supplied to Vuwani Spar.

Because this was their first year, profits were low. Most of their earnings went toward paying workers, electricity, land preparation, seedlings, fertilisers, and pesticides. After receiving support from Far North in the form of a water tank, they bought a water pump to draw water from a nearby stream for irrigation. They also bought drip lines and pipes to improve production.

This experience sparked Gundo's passion for agriculture. He built a small pigsty at home and started raising pigs. He began with two piglets, which produced eight more within seven months.

As a young, emerging farmer from a disadvantaged background, Gundo is now hopeful about the future. His family could not afford to send him to tertiary studies, but he is determined to grow his farming businesses. He believes this is important because there are few employment opportunities in the country.



Picture 1: Gundo's SLP groups green peppers and some pigs at Gundo's backyard

Masala Makhado: Photography is taking me places

Masala Makhado, a 32-year-old from Makwarela, studied marketing at Vhembe TVET College but struggled to find employment. He began taking photos at Thavhani Mall using a small camera. For over two years, he charged as little as R10 for three photos, capturing moments for people passing through the mall.

He later secured small contracts to photograph parties and small weddings, which helped him open a modest studio where clients could book private photoshoots.

In 2025, Masala joined the SLP after partnering with three other young men. Together, they purchased high-quality cameras worth more than R17,000 and have since secured photography jobs as far away as Durban. At present, they are in Lesotho capturing a wedding celebration.

With the profits from his work, Masala has been able to extend his mother's house from three rooms to five rooms, marking a significant personal achievement.



Reclaiming her ambitions: Grace Masakona

Grace Masakona, from Muledane, is a widow in her late forties. She had always depended on her late husband for financial support as he was employed. Grace had never worked before, believing she could not do so because she was illiterate and had been a full-time stay-at-home mother. After her husband's passing, she survived on food parcels from the Department of Social Development. When the SLP was introduced in her community, Grace formed a group with five (5) other women called 'Women in Power'. Through this group, she not only made friends but also found a strong sense of family and support.

Securing occasional piece jobs helped her regain confidence and work toward her personal goal of providing for her children. Grace even managed to buy them Christmas clothes with her own earnings. Her health has improved significantly and she is no longer struggling with depression.



Child Safety And Protection Programme (CSP)

Introduction

The South African Child Gauge (2022) reports that 42% of children in South Africa have experienced some form of violence, with many exposed to violence even before birth through intimate partner violence (IPV). The country's child murder rate is four times higher than the global average, with neglect and abuse contributing to nearly half of these deaths. These statistics underscore the urgent need for coordinated, comprehensive action to protect the nation's most vulnerable children.

“Violence against children is not only a moral crisis and it's also draining the nation's future. According to a 2024 study by Deloitte and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, this crisis costs South Africa an estimated 6% of its GDP which works out to R238.58 billion annually.”

Recent crime statistics from the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year (October to December 2024) reveal just how devastating the scale of violence against children (VAC) is:



The Child Safety and Protection Programme (CSP) was established to build safe and protective environments that prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, and violence against children (VAC) across households, schools, and other spaces where children live, play, and learn. The programme specifically targets communities where available data and crime statistics show high levels of VAC.

“This violence includes emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, which may be perpetrated by anyone, anywhere—including on digital platforms. For the purposes of this programme, the term “child” includes girls, boys, and non-binary young people under the age of 22.”

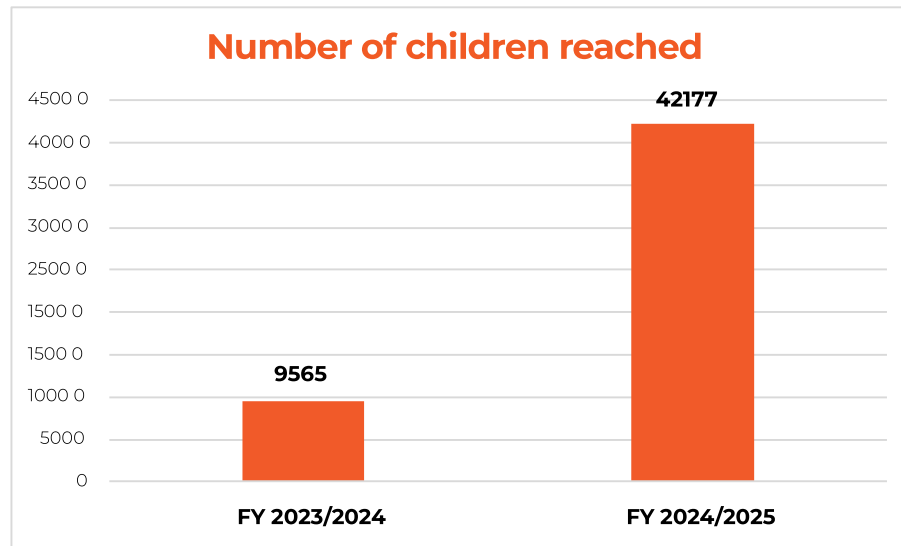
The CSP's work is centred on four key focus areas:



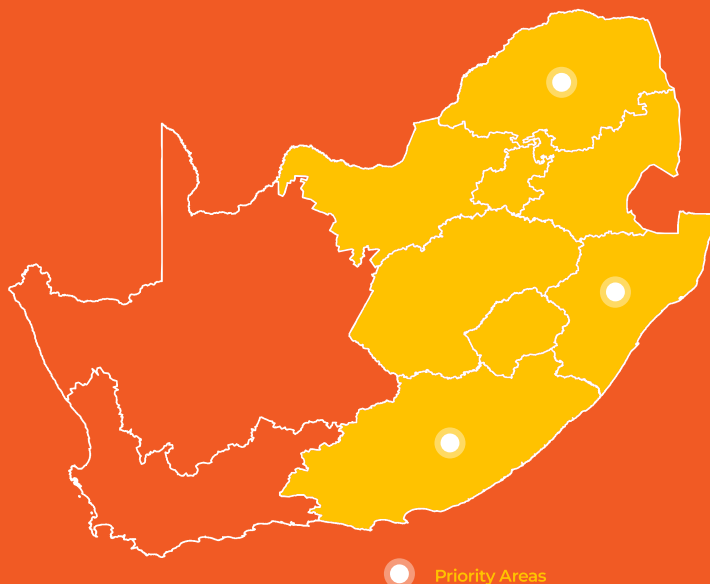
Programme Reach

In the 2024/2025 financial year, the CSP expanded its reach to children aged 0-18 from **9,565** the previous year to **42,117**. This represents children reached directly and indirectly in schools and the community on prevention and response for violence against children and women.

The CSP collaborated with **14 implementing partners** to deliver violence prevention programmes and to strengthen community-based child protection systems.



The Programme worked in the geographic areas below, focusing on districts and municipalities that demonstrated high levels of violence against children.



Priority areas by province

Limpopo (4):

Capricorn, Mopani, Thulamela, Vhembe

Gauteng (1):

Ekurhuleni Municipality

KwaZulu Natal (2):

Ethekwini, Umgungundlovu District

Western Cape (2):

City of Cape Town, West Coast

Northern Cape (1):

Frances Baard Municipality

Free State (1):

Lejweleputswa District Municipality

CSP Approach and Interventions

Child Safety and Protection Programme Theory of Change

The operational model of the CSP is guided by its Theory of Change, which is rooted in research and underpinned by evidence. The programme aims to reduce children's vulnerability to abuse and violence within their families, schools, and communities, while also strengthening local child protection systems. By working closely with strategic and implementing partners, the CSP delivers targeted child protection and violence prevention initiatives. In parallel, it supports child- and youth-led advocacy efforts to influence the design of stronger child protection policies and programmes.

Through the dual approach of direct intervention and systemic advocacy, the CSP aims to build greater commitment from government, civil society, and the international development sector. This collective commitment will help shape more effective plans, policies, and legislation to prevent and respond to violence against children. Additionally, the CSP's initiatives aim to improve access to social and statutory services for children and caregivers, increase awareness of safe reporting mechanisms, and empower children to feel secure and supported in their environments.

Socio-ecological model and life course approach

The CSP is built on a holistic model that tackles child protection through both direct intervention and community engagement. It draws on the socio-ecological model, which recognises the powerful influence of a child's surroundings on their safety and development. This approach addresses not only a child's immediate environment (school, peers, caregivers) but also the wider community, social, and statutory services and the broader policy, cultural, and social context.

The Child Safety and Protection Programme (CSP) follows the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) life-course approach, aligning interventions with children's developmental stages and their evolving needs, risks, and opportunities. Focusing mainly on primary and secondary school learners, the CSP provides counselling, trauma-informed violence prevention, leadership development, and resilience-building. It also engages key duty-bearers (parents, caregivers, teachers, community leaders, and service providers) to create safer environments for children. To strengthen its impact, the CSP partners with organisations such as the **Department of Social Development**, the **Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town**, and the **Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPPSI)**.

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
Mobilisation of Funds and Resources Collaboration and Sensitisation of Local Stakeholders Information and Knowledge Gathering Development and updating of Programme Documents Capacity Development and Retention of Human Resources	CSP Team Map & Identify Strategic Partners and Stakeholders. Train and Sensitise Programme Stakeholders. Facilitate Thought-leadership and Learning Events. Manage Implementing Partner Grants. Publish research (Advocacy). Monitor and Evaluation Programme.	Children, AGYW and ABYM in target communities access effective VAC prevention and protective services. Improved operational and training resources (tools, guides) published. CSP Advocacy and VLP initiatives informed by evidence (research). AGYW have knowledge about their rights and how to strengthen protective factors. ABYM understand the concept of toxic masculinities and can identify alternate ways of expressing their masculinity. Caregivers, child protection practitioners and duty bearers in target communities collaborate and act to make their communities safer.	Advocacy Increased commitment and investment from government, civil society, and international stakeholders in addressing child safety and protection issues in South Africa. GBV and Child Protection national plans, and related policies and legislation are effective in reducing and preventing violence against children. Child Wellbeing Children feel safe in their families, schools and communities. Improved access to counselling, psychosocial support, and rehabilitation services for children who have experienced violence, abuse, or exploitation.	Reduced child vulnerability to abuse and violence in families, schools, and communities. Strengthened community child protection systems.
	Implementing Partners Implement effective VAC prevention programmes for children, AGYW and ABYM. Implement effective child protection programmes for children, AGYW and ABYM. Develop capacity of caregivers and practitioners to reduce VAC risk factors and strengthen protective factors.		Knowledge and Empowerment Children can identify and manage safety risks, protect themselves from violence, report experiences of violence and ask for help when necessary. Increased implementation of positive parenting practices, non-violent discipline methods, and community-based child protection mechanisms.	

This model is delivered through four core implementation strategies: Violence Prevention, Strengthening Community-Based Child Prevention, Thought Leadership, and Advocacy.

1. Violence prevention programmes for children and duty-bearers

The CSP partners with community-based organisations to run evidence-based programmes that reduce violence against children (VAC) by addressing its root causes and strengthening response capacity.

Initiatives such as the Girl Power against Violence project combine psychosocial support, economic strengthening, school-based protection skills, and community engagement. These interventions use arts and sport therapy, peer support, and trauma-informed approaches to help children and duty-bearers understand and prevent violence. The programme also builds the capacity of educators, caregivers, and ECD practitioners to create safer environments and documents best practices to inform policy and advocacy.

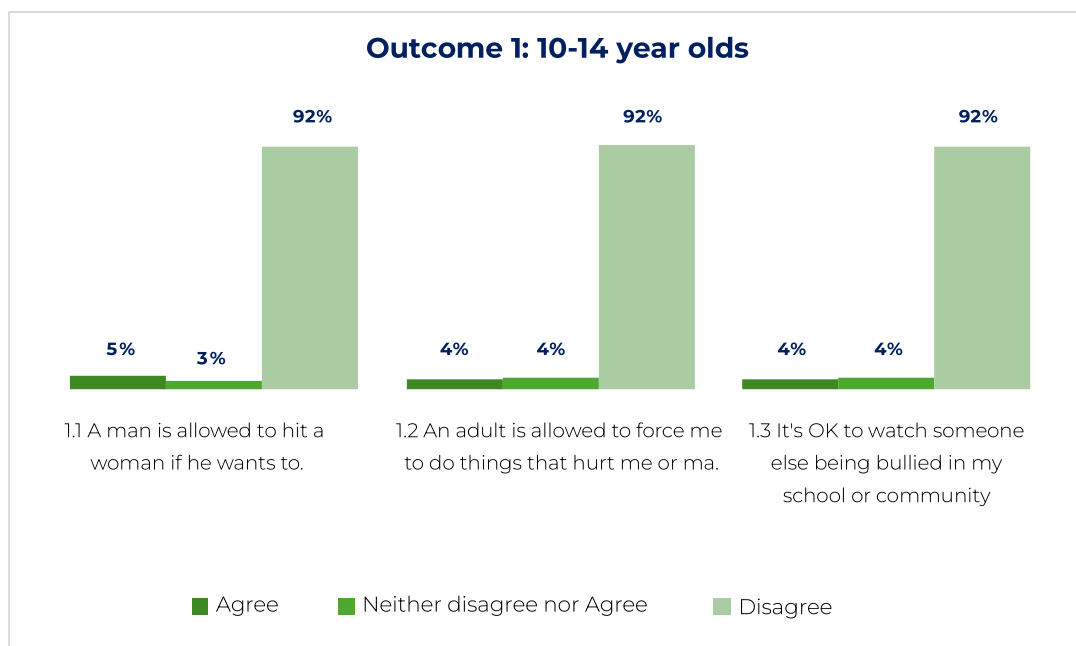


**Mental Health “Tree Of Life” Demonstration;
Phola NPO**



**Learner-Led Child Protection Week 2024 Event;
Far North Community Care & Development**

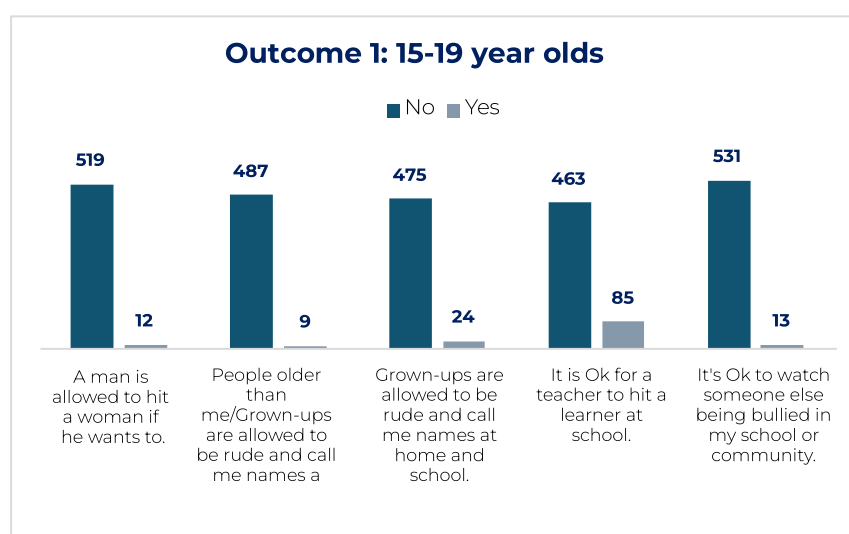
The Girl Power Against Violence project has made significant strides in addressing violence against children and women in target schools and communities. The baseline evaluation highlighted key outcomes that demonstrate both progress and areas for improvement.

Outcome 1: Decreased acceptance of violence against children and women in schools and communities.**Figure 1. Respondent attitude to violence (age 10-14)**

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, there is a clear rejection of violence in the surveyed communities, with most respondents, aged 10 to 14 and 15+ years of age, strongly condemning violence against children and women. Despite this, the frequency and severity of bullying, violence, and abuse remain prevalent, suggesting that further work is needed to reduce the acceptance of violence and encourage more proactive interventions.

Outcome 2: Increased reporting on violence and corporal punishment in schools and communities.

The project has successfully raised awareness about reporting violence, with most baseline respondents indicating that they now know how to identify and report incidents. However, many children and young people, particularly those aged 15 to 19 years old, still fear negative consequences for speaking out. To address this, the project will focus on working with both duty-bearers and children to strengthen reporting channels and reinforce the importance of reporting incidents of violence.

**Figure 2. Respondent attitude to violence (age 15-19)**

Outcome 3: Improved access to social and statutory protective services.

Some beneficiaries have sought support from social and statutory services, yet significant gaps remain in children's knowledge of where and how to access help. In its second year, the project is prioritising stronger referral systems and expanding children's awareness of available services. Where possible, training is also being provided to service providers to ensure they respond more effectively to the needs of young people.

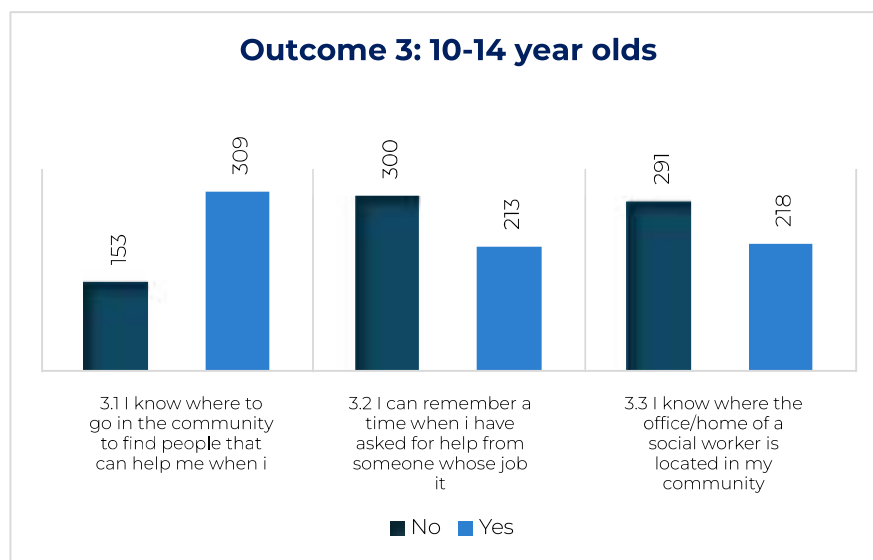


Figure 3. Access to social services. 10-14 year olds

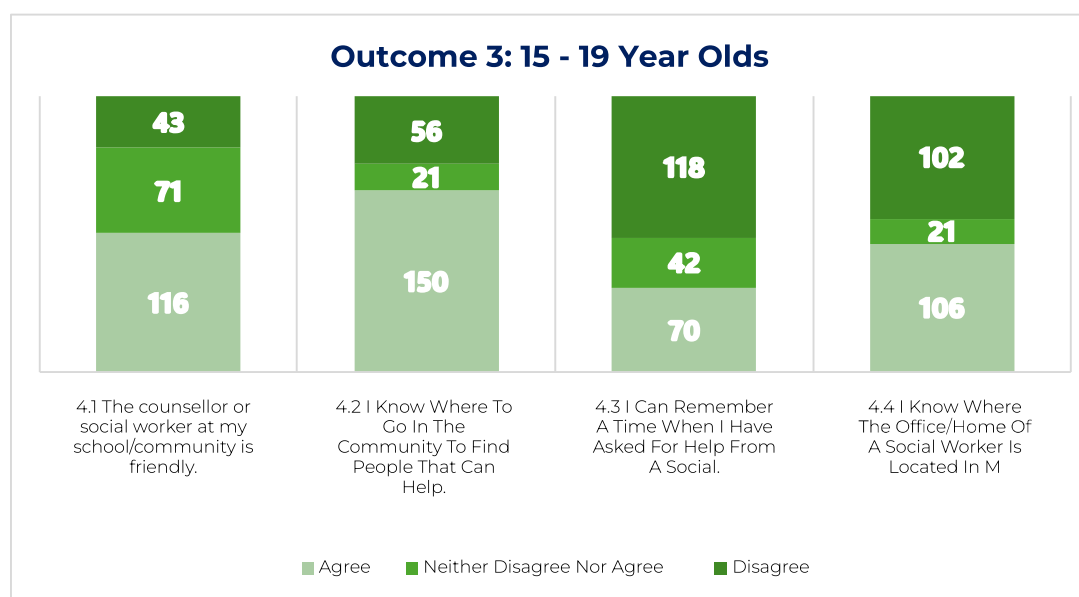


FIGURE 4. ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES. 15-19 YEAR OLDS

Outcome 4: Increased accountability by duty bearers through safety and protection campaigns.

Schools and community leaders reported broad support for a zero-tolerance stance on violence. However, many duty-bearers still lack the necessary training to respond effectively. To close this gap, the project is building capacity through targeted training on recognising, responding to and reporting violence. This approach is designed to strengthen accountability and improve protection for children at community level.

Outcome 5: Increased economic security of women and girls.

Economic insecurity continues to place women and girls at risk of violence, with financial dependence often linked to remaining in abusive relationships. To address this, the project has intentionally integrated financial literacy and empowerment programmes into its second year. A dedicated implementation partner has been onboarded to support this work, ensuring women and girls gain the skills and resources needed for economic independence and safety.

**Outcome 6: Men and boys perceive women and girls as equal and respected members of the community and within schools.**

Findings show that many boys and men already reject traditional gender roles and actively support gender equality. However, attitudes towards women's financial independence and the division of care work remain uneven. Ongoing gender sensitivity education will play a critical role in challenging these views and fostering more equitable attitudes in both schools and communities.

2. Strengthening community-based child protection systems

The CSP strengthens local child protection systems by supporting or establishing child protection forums and consortia that bring together social workers, police units, civil society organisations, and community leaders. These forums drive early detection and prevention through awareness campaigns, education, and community mobilisation, and they establish referral networks for counselling, legal aid, and healthcare.

In the 2024/2025 financial year, nine (9) Child Protection Forums (CPFs) were established or strengthened in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Northern Cape, and Western Cape through the efforts of community-based organisations. This marks an increase from six forums in the 2023/2024 year.

In Delft, Western Cape, a consortium of implementing partners revitalised the local CPF in collaboration with the Delft Victim Empowerment Programme and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Forum, the Department of Social Development, the South African Police Service, and other community leaders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This collaboration improved service coordination and fostered stronger community engagement.

Key achievements include the establishment of a CPF Secretariat and the creation of task teams addressing child abandonment and gender-based violence (GBV). The forum also hosted impactful events, such as the GBV Imbizo.

Early results suggest that critical success factors for building effective and sustainable CPFs include:

1. Having a clear Terms of Reference that outlines the forum's mandate and its role within the broader child protection system
2. Ensuring a strong and well-defined Secretariat composed mainly of government duty-bearers, social service providers, and community leaders
3. Allowing NGOs and civil society organisations to serve on the Secretariat where appropriate, while maintaining a community-driven approach to ensure sustainability beyond the Girl Power Project
4. Training community members, nominating local Ambassadors for violence prevention, and ensuring representation across the entire child protection continuum

As the programme continues to implement this model of supporting community-level child protection systems, it will document and share further evidence and best-practice models.



Lusikisiki gender-based violence forum

In other parts of South Africa, forums such as the Makhanda Iskhalo Initiative and Lusikisiki GBV Forum in the Eastern Cape created safe spaces for victims of abuse, strengthening community advocacy. Similarly, NGOs participating in the Tembisa Stakeholders' Forum in Gauteng collaborated with clinics, police, and community organisations to raise awareness of violence against children and its links to GBV.

30 Year Spotlight:

Sexual Violence against Girl in South African Schools (SeVISSA) Project

From **2014–2019**, the Child Safety and Protection (CSP) Programme implemented the **SeVISSA Project**, which focused on reducing sexual violence at home and in schools while improving girls' access, retention, and attainment in education. The project used multiple interventions to create safer school environments and empower girls and their communities.

By the end of the project, evaluation findings showed a **marked increase in knowledge and awareness of violence** among participants. Awareness of **sexual violence rose from 5% to 15% among females and from 5% to 16% among males**. Awareness of **physical violence and corporal punishment** also improved significantly.

The project strengthened community leadership. By its close, **40 local initiatives** were led by women and girls, exceeding the target of 31. These initiatives included **self-help groups, anti-violence clubs, campaigns, and farming projects**. Leadership training also reached more participants, with **66% attending training compared to 53% at baseline**. This growth in skills enabled **1,431 women to assume leadership roles** in their communities.

Access to psycho-social and protective services also expanded. At baseline, only **24% of participants reported receiving services**, compared to **47% at the project's end**. A total of **2,393 women and girls accessed statutory and protective services**, more than double the project target of 1,113. Much of this progress came from initiatives that supported community members to secure **birth certificates and referrals to protective service providers**.

Despite these achievements, gaps remained in **reporting mechanisms**. During the programme, **22% of participants needed to report incidents of violence to the police**, but only **63% followed through**. Barriers included **fear of retaliation, lack of police response, family pressure not to report, and lack of resources such as transport money**.

These lessons informed the CSP Programme's subsequent focus on **strengthening referral systems and building community-based child protection forums and coalitions**, ensuring that children and duty-bearers are better supported to act against violence in future.



3. Thought leadership

The CSP creates platforms for children and young people to share their experiences and shape solutions to end VAC. Dialogues and summits, such as the Academic Symposium and the Boy Joy Summit, allow young people to identify priorities for safer communities. Insights from these engagements inform programme design, research agendas, and policy advocacy.

In 2024, the Boy Joy Summit built on the success and insights of its 2023 pilot, which hosted twenty-eight (28) boys. Fifty-three (53) boys from six provinces across South Africa gathered in Johannesburg from 6 to 9 December 2024. The summit aimed to deepen discussions on masculinity, nurture joy, and equip boys with tools to address societal challenges such as gender-based violence (GBV), educational inequities, and climate change.

Under the theme 'Hanging the Narrative – Joyful Boys for a Just Society', the programme encouraged boys to redefine masculinity, lead meaningful community change, and build sustainable partnerships. Led by C. Anzio Jacobs and supported by expert facilitators, the 2024 summit brought together diverse voices in a powerful effort to confront the challenges boys face while celebrating their potential.

Participants explored ways to break societal stereotypes that limit boys' emotional growth, highlighting the importance of resilience and emotional intelligence. They stressed the need for safe spaces where boys can express themselves openly and connect with positive role models.

Discussions also examined barriers to education, including affordability, overcrowded schools, violence, and discrimination, which continue to restrict opportunities for many boys. Addressing these challenges is essential for building an inclusive future where education is accessible to all.

The summit further considered the role of technology in shaping boys' lives, recognising its power to both empower and harm. Participants emphasised the need for responsible use to maximise opportunities while reducing risks such as over-reliance and exposure to online dangers.

4. Advocacy

The CSP advocates for child participation in national policy processes, particularly on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), recognising the intersection between VAC and GBV. It pushes for reforms that include children in both prevention and response efforts and calls for greater investment in trauma-informed services tailored to children's emotional and mental health needs. The programme has begun addressing digital safety, hosting dialogues on online risks such as cyberbullying and exploitation, and engaging with key stakeholders to develop a stronger child online protection framework.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the CSP took part in the Meeting of the Coordinating Structure on Online Violence Against Children, where it shared insights from its work on violence against children, particularly regarding online bullying and predation. It also highlighted the child safeguarding measures built into its online events and platforms. Recognising the growing risks of online abuse and exploitation, the CSP plans to strengthen its knowledge and approach to digital safety programming in the coming year. In addition, it continued to promote child participation by supporting the inclusion of a seventh pillar on this in the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, and by contributing to the launch of the Children's Report on the NSP.

Lessons learnt

Over the years, the CSP has evolved from simply raising awareness about violence to actively empowering children and strengthening community protection systems. Its journey shows that preventing violence requires more than just information — it demands action, trust, and support.

Key Insights from Violence Prevention Work

- Early initiatives like the SeViSSA project raised awareness and encouraged people to speak out, while later programmes placed children and young people in leadership roles to drive change.
- Awareness about physical violence, sexual abuse, and corporal punishment has grown, but this must now translate into higher reporting rates and use of referral services.
- Many young people, especially high-school learners, fear retaliation, lack of confidentiality, and distrust in authorities, which prevents them from reporting abuse.
- The Girl Power project is addressing these gaps by creating safer reporting systems and expanding access to psychosocial and protective services — including practical help like securing birth certificates and referrals.
- Improving protection requires making services more visible, youth-friendly, and accessible, while training service providers and ensuring children know how to access support.

Strengthening community-based child protection systems

- Strong partnerships are essential to sustainable child protection.
- Projects like Girl Power show the value of community-level child protection forums that bring together local leaders, service providers, and community members to coordinate responses to violence.



Highlights for the year

Girl Power Against Violence Project

In November 2024, CSP completed a 45-minute videography documentary of the Girl Power Against Violence Project featuring the models, methodologies, and approaches of the eleven (11) partner organisations engaged in the project. This documentary serves as an important knowledge product and forms part of the project's compendium of assets, which will be further developed in the next financial year.

The Sivulithuba Tertiary Preparation Programme: First Year Completion

The Sivulithuba Tertiary Preparation Programme is building a stronger Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sector by helping underqualified practitioners from disadvantaged backgrounds access higher education. Implemented in partnership with Midlands Community College (MCC) and Training and Resources in Early Education (TREE), the programme supports the long-term goal of professionalising the ECD field and improving the quality and safety of childcare in vulnerable communities.

Through the CSP, twenty (20) ECCE practitioners from KwaZulu-Natal, with an NQF Level 4 qualification but lacking the required diploma pass, were supported to continue their studies. The programme offered a blend of in-person and online learning across six modules, with participants receiving tablets to access digital learning materials.

Despite an unexpected change in academic partners, Sivulithuba secured a new collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA). Through a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process, practitioners were admitted to the UNISA Diploma in ECCE (NQF Level 6). To qualify, they had to complete the Sivulithuba programme, hold an endorsed NQF Level 4 ECD certificate, and have a Grade 12 certificate (with or without a diploma pass).

Participants have shown notable growth in digital literacy, academic writing, professional conduct, and reflective teaching, thus laying the foundation for a more skilled and professional ECCE workforce.



Sivulithuba programme ECD practitioner class



Sivulithuba programme ecd practitioner class

The programme also played a key role in promoting safer and more inclusive ECD environments. By supporting the professionalisation of ECCE practitioners, it strengthened their ability to safeguard young children during their most critical developmental stages.

Practitioners reported applying their new knowledge in the following ways:

- Developing **inclusive lesson plans** that address the diverse needs of all children
- Incorporating **positive discipline strategies** into their daily practice
- Reflecting on **gender equity, emotional safety, and ethical conduct** in their teaching.
- Gaining a deeper understanding of gender stereotypes, **creating gender-sensitive learning environments**, and promoting equal participation for boys and girls through the gender equality course.

The programme included a dedicated module on gender equity, which helped address harmful norms that contribute to unsafe conditions for children. In addition, the professionalism and reflective teaching modules enhanced practitioners' understanding of their duty of care, fostering greater accountability and a stronger commitment to continuous improvement.

30 Year Spotlight:

Community Engagement and Child Participation

The CSP Programme strengthened school safety, child protection, and community empowerment through key partnerships in 2024/2025.

KwaZulu-Natal: Manguzi

- Partnered with **Tholulwazi Uzivikele (TU)** to reduce **teenage pregnancies** and school drop-outs.
- Improved **Grade 12 learner performance** in 2020–2021. Psychosocial support with REPSSI
- Piloted **"Say No to GBV!"**, reaching **1,273 children** in Gauteng and Limpopo.
- **98 children** accessed refuge at the **Home of Hope for Girls**.
- Founder **Mam Khanyí** awarded **2022 Global Citizen Prize: Citizen Award South African Winner** for leadership in child safety.

School-based initiatives: Orlando East, Gauteng

- Engaged **350 girls and 325 boys** using "Say No to GBV!" tools.
- Ran **three-day leadership camps** for 298 learners.
- Conducted **parental support sessions** for **25 families**.

These initiatives strengthened community participation, built leadership skills, and provided safe spaces for children to thrive.





Makwarela's story: From challenge to leadership

Makwarela Donald, a 13-year-old Grade 6 learner at Makwarela Primary, lives in Mbilwi; a community known for high crime levels, gang activity, and the presence of ex-convicts. Growing up in this environment, he adopted negative behaviours from his peers and carried them into school. He bullied and verbally abused other learners, used physical violence, mocked their appearance, ignored teachers, refused to complete schoolwork, and often broke school rules, such as wearing a hat in class.

Joining the Girl Power Program became a turning point in his life. The programme helped Makwarela recognise the harm caused by his actions, leading to a positive transformation. His behaviour change impressed his classmates and teachers, who elected him as the class representative for Grade 6B. Embracing this role, Makwarela committed to promoting positive behaviour and raising awareness about gender-based violence (GBV), especially because many of his peers come from violent and crime-affected communities.

Motivated by his new sense of responsibility, he developed a passion for writing short stories and dramas about GBV to educate children and communities on its damaging effects on child development. Some of his dramas have been broadcast on Phalaphala FM and Vhembe FM, and he has spoken about GBV on Choice FM.

The Girl Power Programme has opened new opportunities for Makwarela, and he now dreams of writing and publishing a book that addresses violence in schools.

Inspired by this newfound sense of responsibility, Makwarela developed a passion for writing short stories and dramas focused on gender-based violence..

Youth Leadership Programme (YLP)

Introduction

The **Youth Leadership Programme (YLP)** empowers young South Africans to become active citizens. The programme helps the youth to grow into capable leaders and strong advocates for children's rights. The programme includes key initiatives such as the **Legacy Academy**, the **Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament (NMCP)**, STEM Bootcamps, and targeted grants to partner organisations. These initiatives build youth capacity to design and implement community solutions, engage in policymaking, and drive social change.

YLP activities are supported by curriculum development, alumni engagement, and policy advocacy. Stakeholder engagement is a core feature of partnering locally with academic institutions such as the University of South Africa (UNISA) to deliver STEM Bootcamps in coding and robotics. The programme works nationally with government departments to contribute to policies such as the **National Strategic Action Plan to Accelerate Actions for Children (NSAAC)**. It also partners regionally and globally with partners, including United Nations agencies, the **African Union Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate**, as well as with the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership to advance research on child-led methodologies.

The YLP Approach

The YLP's approach uses an approach based on experiential learning, peer-to-peer exchange, and advocacy at multiple levels. The YLP drives change through several key focus areas that build young people's capacity and expand their opportunities for meaningful participation:

- **Leadership development:** Equips youth with skills in project design, facilitation, negotiation, and public speaking.
- **Civic engagement:** Creates platforms for youth to participate in democratic processes and policy consultations.
- **Partnerships for impact:** work with government, civil society, the private sector, and international bodies to amplify youth voices and create opportunities for sustained engagement.
- **Targeted grant making:** funds and supports organisations such as Mamelani Projects and PeacePlayers South Africa to expand their reach and impact among marginalised youth.

Reach and participation (2024/25)

In the 2024/25 financial year, the YLP strengthened its reach, developed youth skills, and strengthened its impact through the following key initiatives:

- **Legacy Academy:** In March 2024, over 30 high school learners joined this leadership programme, which helps Grade 9–11 learners develop the confidence and skills to lead community projects inspired by Nelson Mandela's values..
- **UNISA Robotics Coding Training:** During the June holidays, UNISA's Centre of Science Engagement trained over 60 learners (including all Legacy Academy participants) in robotics, coding, and problem-solving.
- **Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament:** Expected participation of approximately 405 young parliamentarians (ages 13–18 years) in 2025, ensuring provincial representation.
- **Mamelani Projects:** Supported 45 young people transitioning out of Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) through the ProSEED programme, improving self-confidence, life skills, and access to networks. Launched a documentary showcasing these transition journeys as an advocacy tool.
- **PeacePlayers South Africa:** Engaged 320 youth in leadership-through-sport, with targeted inclusion of youth with disabilities, improving teamwork, self-esteem, and cross-community relationships.

YLP 2024/25 Implementing partners

In 2024, the YLP advanced grants to Mamelani Projects and PeacePlayers, as these organisations support the strategic objectives of the Fund and the YLP programme.

- **Mamelani Projects:** Young people in their final year at Child and Youth Care Centres or Cluster Foster Care are invited to apply for its transition programme. The organisation recruits twenty-five (25) young people from eleven (11) partner organisations to join the three-year programme. Through mentorship and group experiential sessions, Mamelani Projects builds independent life skills to prepare for adulthood. Support includes help with accommodation, reintegration, educational assistance, bursaries, job readiness, and internships or learnerships.
- **PeacePlayers South Africa:** this nonprofit organisation was established in 2001. They use basketball to build life skills and bring young people from different races, socioeconomic backgrounds, and communities together. Through long-term programmes, they provide safe spaces for collaboration, leadership development, and friendships. Ultimately, these young people grow into peace advocates who influence positive change in their schools and communities. The addition of two implementing partners and the two focus areas of sports for development and a continuum of care will be incorporated into the updated Theory of Change for the Youth Leadership Programme with clear outcomes and indicators.



Lesson Learnt

1. Programme continuity: Absence of Efeng Bacha in 2025 highlighted the need for earlier funding and scheduling.
2. Alumni engagement: The Potential to harness alumni as mentors and advocates remains underutilised.
3. Advocacy tools: Mamelani's documentary demonstrated the value of storytelling in policy engagement.
4. Partnership diversification: Expanding private sector links, especially in STEM, can strengthen pathways to employment.
5. Inclusive participation: Peace Players' disability inclusion approach offers a model for wider replication.
6. Integrated M&E: Greater cross-programme data integration will strengthen cumulative impact reporting.

Highlights for the 2024/25 period

- On 6 to 13 July 2024, two Legacy Academy leaders were chosen by the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership to present their child-led activism projects at the International Engagement Conference. They helped shape a global youth advocacy curriculum, built networks with international activists and policymakers, and strengthened ties with child rights platforms like the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations and the Child Rights Connect Children's Advisory Team.
- In 2024, Mamelani Projects youth joined a cultural exchange with peers from Northern Ireland. Through arts, storytelling, and research, they co-created a documentary and booklet highlighting shared challenges and differences in care systems—amplifying youth voices and driving policy change.
- PeacePlayers SA embedded disability inclusion in sport-based leadership.
- UNISA Robotics Coding Training June Holiday Programme.
- YLP youth engaged in AU, UN, and international research platforms.
- Policy engagement through NSAAC consultations influenced children's rights priorities.
- Alumni continued to lead community initiatives and contribute to policy spaces.

China-Africa Collaboration: Seminar on the Green Economy initiative

The YLP programme manager joined a learning exchange sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce from August 31 to September 13, 2024. The trip, hosted by Hubei Vocational College of Biotechnology, focused on China's green economy, ecological management, and sustainable development practices in China. Key activities included lectures, field visits, and cultural activities to explore how China's green economy practices align with global efforts.

Key highlights

- **Lectures on green economy and ecological practices:** covered China's green economy development, ecological conservation, green agriculture, sustainable food production, and innovative technologies in energy storage and agriculture, with insights from experts from Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Terminus Technologies.
- **Field visits to green economy pioneers:** included Yu Village, CHINT Group, and the Hangzhou Low Carbon Science & Technology Museum, showcasing renewable energy, photovoltaic agriculture systems and smart cities robotics.
- **Cultural engagement:** included visits to landmarks such as the Yellow Crane Tower and West Lake, providing a cultural backdrop that enriched participants' understanding of China's balance between modernisation and ecological preservation. A night cruise on the Yangtze River added to the cultural immersion.
- **Collaborative exchange:** provided discussions with the Department of Commerce of Hubei Province, emphasising China's green economic policies and strategies to achieve carbon neutrality.

Impact on Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) funding pipeline provided insights to support NMCF's sustainability goals and attract eco-conscious donors, especially in areas such as green economy and renewable energy. The partnership opportunities can potentially expand NMCF's funding pipeline with organisations interested in supporting initiatives that bridge child advocacy with environmental sustainability.

- Strategic positioning can place NMCF as a leader in both child welfare and environmental sustainability, strengthening its funding from global green economy partners and environmentally focused philanthropic sources.
- Partnership potential presented an opportunity for NMCF to leverage China's advancements in green technology and sustainability for programme and funding growth.



Stories of Impact from Beneficiaries

Stella: From Uncertainty to Independence

Mamelani Projects

A former ProSEED participant said, "When I left the CYCC, I didn't know where I was going to stay or how I would survive..." This participant secured safe housing, employment, and part-time education after mentorship and support from the programme.

From Uncertainty to Empowered Advocate

When Stella first heard about Mamelani's Youth Development Programme, she wasn't sure it was for her. "I wasn't even part of the initial group," she says, but I applied because I knew I was leaving the Child and Youth Care Centre and I needed something to help me face the real world." What began as a tentative step became a turning point. Stella explains how, being in the centre, she was provided with everything. "Mamelani gave me a space to process all of that and guided me in the right direction," she explains.

Stella describes how the group sessions helped her see she wasn't alone and how hearing the stories of other young people offered her comfort and motivation. She also received one-on-one mentoring, a bursary to complete her studies, and food support, each a lifeline during uncertain times.

What left the biggest mark, however, was being part of the cross-cultural exchange between South African and Northern Irish care-experienced youth. Hearing the stories from Ireland made Stella realise how much they were loved and supported here [in South Africa].

"That opened my eyes to how privileged we were, even if we didn't always see it that way."

Although Stella didn't get to travel abroad, she was an active voice throughout the process. "Even being here and sharing our stories changed something. It gave others, those still in care and the world outside, a chance to understand what we've been through. And that's already making a difference."

Today, Stella is a graduate and a mentor to others, her confidence radiating through her advocacy and leadership.

“Even the food support helped me contribute to my new household. It made me feel less like a burden.”

Lungisani: Breaking Barriers through Sport

PeacePlayers SA

The support that NMCF provided to the PPSA coaches' development programme is invaluable. A teenage participant with a disability became a PeacePlayer team leader, inspiring peers and promoting cross-community unity. This is highlighted through the story of Coach Lungisani. He joined the PPSA programme 15 years ago when he was at Cwebezela Primary School and played for the Umlazi West High School Programme.

For five years, he has been one of the most successful Coaches who went back to Coach both his primary and high school teams to give back to his community.

"I am proud of the work that I do because I am now viewed as a role model in my community, not only by the youth that I coach but by parents and community leaders as well," he says.

Coach Lungisani is part of the Umlazi West Community Alliance that helps provide additional support for the community outside of PeacePlayers. At the age of 22 years, he is the only person working in his household, providing support for a family of eight, including his parents.

His most recent achievements and opportunities he has accessed since being a Coach at PeacePlayers include additional coaching work at Northwood High School as U14 basketball Head Coach. He is also learning how to coach new sports he has not played before, such as water polo, rugby, and soccer. In August, he won gold medals as Head Coach for both U18 boys' and girls' teams from Ward 83 eThekwinini Games.

Coach Lungisani hopes to start a business someday and he says that being a part of PeacePlayers has helped him access opportunities he did not even know were possible. The NQF Level 5 Sport Coaching Certificate that he received through the NMCF and YLP partnership with CATHSSETA two years ago helped him receive recognition with other entities outside of PeacePlayers. He is now training to be a qualified FIBA ref.

"Mamelani made me strong. I now know that life comes with different challenges, but I am not alone. There are people out there who care more than even your own family sometimes. I'm grateful, and I wouldn't trade this journey for anything."



Igniting a Passion for Innovation – STEM Bootcamps

The bootcamp introduced rural youth to coding and robotics, sparking innovation and career ambition.

"Before the bootcamp, I didn't know coding could be fun. Now I want to build an app to help my community," says a Legacy Academy participant.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL(NMCH)

A Partnership with the Department Of Health

The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (NMCH) continues to strengthen its partnership with the National Department of Health (DoH) in ensuring access to highly specialised paediatric healthcare. Through the Department's support and collaboration with the NMCF, the hospital is able to provide advanced medical services that are otherwise scarce in South Africa and the region.

Ninety percent of all patients referred to the Hospital are South African children or those within South Africa's borders with the remainder coming from other African countries. The Majority of public patients are referred from Gauteng Province (95%), followed by the North-West (2%) Limpopo (2%) and Mpumalanga (1%) Provinces.

The table below shows the patients statistics since 2018:

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
In Patients	33	781	1139	1185	2102	1665	1763	1853	10521
Day cases	437	576	485	382	749	928	944	1142	5643
Out Patients	6	777	1726	2360	10137	7957	6966	7758	37687
Admissions	526	2131	3360	4227	13018	10550	9730	2995	46537
OPD Treatments		1999	3936	5494	15285	12672	11529	12270	63185
Radiology Treatments	608	3478	4090	4137	7295	7920	7802	7832	43162
Dialysis Treatments	12	1988	3240	3891	4816	4985	5632	4977	29541
Allied Visits		2124	12250	11621	10005	15851	13499	13662	79012
Total Treatments	620	9584	23436	25783	37331	41128	37672	38741	214295

Together, NMCF, NMCH and the Department of Health are closing critical gaps in specialised paediatric services, advancing universal health coverage, and strengthening the healthcare system to meet the needs of South Africa's children.

Investing in Paediatric Surgical Excellence



Dr. Niveshni Maistry, a beneficiary of the Motsepe Foundation's sponsorship through the NMCF, has successfully completed her specialist training in paediatric surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand and the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (NMCH). Supported by the Foundation since November 2020, she qualified as a paediatric surgeon in July 2025.

In a country with only two paediatric surgeons per million children under the age of 14, every specialist trained represents a significant expansion of access to life-saving care for children.

Valuing and Caring for Healthcare Workers

Girl Power Against Violence Project

The NMCF funding supported the Incon Employee Wellness Programme of the Hospital. This initiative is central to supporting the wellbeing of NMCH staff, offering psychological care for employees experiencing trauma or stress and providing medical assessments where needed.

The importance of mental health services for healthcare workers cannot be overstated. Working in high-pressure clinical environments often exposes staff to emotionally demanding situations. By ensuring access to professional support, NMCH helps safeguard the resilience, compassion, and effectiveness of its workforce.

Investing in staff wellness ultimately strengthens the hospital's ability to deliver on its mission: providing world-class care to children. A healthy, supported team is the foundation for sustainable, high-quality paediatric healthcare. .





Nelson Mandela
CHILDREN'S FUND®



CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Audited Financial Statements

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

General Information

Country of Incorporation and Domicile	South Africa
Type of Trust	Inter Vivos trust.
Registration Number	IT2801/95
Nature of Business and Principal Activities	The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (the Fund) is a discretionary inter vivos trust and is registered in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997). The primary aim of the Fund is to change the way society treats its children and youth.
Trustees	<p>Mr Mpho Makwana (Interim Chairperson)</p> <p>Mr Rorisang Tshabalala (Interim Deputy Chairperson)</p> <p>Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo (Chief Executive Officer)</p> <p>Ms. Nana Moipone Magomola - Chairperson (Resigned: 26 June 2025)</p> <p>Mr Moss Ngoasheng - Deputy Chairperson (Resigned: 13 August 2024)</p> <p>Ms Obenewa Amponash</p> <p>Ms Zodwa Manase</p> <p>Mr Moses Mashishi</p> <p>Mr Sakhile Masuku</p> <p>Mr Owen Maubane (Resigned: 29 July 2025)</p> <p>Ms Lindiwe Mazibuko (Resigned: 22 October 2024)</p> <p>Mr Ishmael Mkhabela (Resigned: 22 January 2025)</p> <p>Adv. Marumo Moerane (Resigned: 26 August 2025)</p> <p>Ms Onkgodisitse Mokonyane (Resigned: 15 July 2025)</p> <p>Ms Mary-Jane Morifi</p> <p>Adv. Kgomoiso Moroka</p> <p>Mr Ivan Moroke</p> <p>Ms Rita Motlana</p> <p>Ms Zanele Ngwepe</p> <p>Mr Victor Nosi (Resigned: 27 September 2024)</p> <p>Mr Sizwe Nzimande</p> <p>Mr Johannes Seoloane</p> <p>Mr Maseda Ratshikuni</p> <p>Ms Nonzukiso Siyotula (Resigned: 01 August 2025)</p> <p>Prof Zebulon Vilakazi</p> <p>Ms Nozizwe Vundla</p>
Registered Office	<p>21 Eastwood Way</p> <p>Saxonworld</p> <p>Johannesburg</p> <p>2196</p>

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

General Information

Business Address	21 Eastwood Way Saxonworld Johannesburg 2196
Postal Address	PO Box 797 Highlands North 2037
Banker	Standard Bank
Tax Number	0720/090/84/4
Value Added Tax Number	4110179175
Auditor	PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. Johannesburg

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' Responsibilities and Approval

The trustees are required to maintain adequate accounting records and are responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. These annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the IFRS for SMEs[®] Accounting Standard as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB[®]) and it is their responsibility to ensure that the annual financial statements satisfy the financial reporting standards with regards to form and content and present fairly the statement of financial position, results of operations and business of the trust, and explain the transactions and financial position of the business of the trust at the end of the financial year. The annual financial statements are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied throughout the trust and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The trustees acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the trust and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the trustees to meet these responsibilities, the trustees set standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the trust and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the trust's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach.

The focus of risk management in the trust is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the trust. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the trust endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The trustees are of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. The going-concern basis has been adopted in preparing the financial statements. Based on forecasts and available cash resources the trustees have no reason to believe that the trust will not be a going concern in the foreseeable future. The annual financial statements support the viability of the trust.

The annual financial statements have been audited by the independent auditing firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., who has been given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data, including minutes of all meetings of the beneficiary, the trustees and committees of the trustees. The trustees believe that all representations made to the independent auditor during the audit were valid and appropriate. The external auditor's unqualified audit report is presented on pages 7 to 8.

The annual financial statements set out on pages 9 to 28 which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were authorised for issue and approved by the trustees and were signed on 3 October 2025 on their behalf by:



Mr Mpho Makwana
Chairperson



Dr. Linda Ncube-Nkomo
Chief Executive Officer

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

1. Review of financial results and activities

Main business and operations

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (the Fund) is a discretionary intervivos trust and is registered in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997). The primary aim of the Fund is to change the way society treats children and youth. There were no major changes herein during the year.

The trust generated a surplus after tax for the year ended 31 March 2025 of R98,477,975 (2024: R77,414,916), mainly as a result of the good performance of the endowment, with 100% returns on interest and dividends reinvested for FY25. During this financial period R50 million was drawn down from the investment capital to fund NMCF's operations.

The trust's revenue decreased from R25,683,811 (Donations in kind amounted to FY2024 R463,441) in the prior year to R15,260,977 (Donations in kind R1,045,497) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trust's cash flows from operating activities changed from an outflow of R16,009,324 in the prior year to an outflow of R54,941,001 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

2. Going concern

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

The NMCF trustees are cognizant of the drastic changes in the fundraising environment in which the Fund is operating and the limited short-term funding prospects in the pipeline. The trustees therefore acknowledge the need to intensify and diversify our fundraising efforts. To capacitate the fundraising unit, the recruitment of a business development executive is underway together with the review of the organizational strategy to help identify our fundraising focus areas.

The trustees believe that the non-profit organisation has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and accordingly the annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees have satisfied themselves that the non-profit organisation is in a sound financial position.

The trustees are not aware of any new material changes that may adversely impact the non-profit organisation. The trustees are also not aware of any material non-compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements or of any pending changes to legislation which may affect the non-profit organisation.

3. Events after reporting date

The trustees have approved a new trust deed since the end of the financial year to the date of this report, and the approved trust deed will not have a material effect on the financial position of the trust.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' Report

4. Trustees

The trustees of the trust during the year and up to the date of this report are as follows:

Mr Mpho Makwana (Interim Chairperson)
 Mr Rorisang Tshabalala (Interim Deputy Chairperson)
 Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo (Chief Executive Officer)
 Ms. Nana Molpone Magomola - Chairperson (Resigned: 26 June 2025)
 Mr Moss Ngoasheng - Deputy Chairperson (Resigned: 13 August 2024)
 Ms Obenewa Amponash
 Ms Zodwa Manase
 Mr Moses Mashishi
 Mr Sakhile Masuku
 Mr Owen Maubane (Resigned: 29 July 2025)
 Ms Lindiwe Mazibuko (Resigned: 22 October 2024)
 Mr Ishmael Mkhabela (Resigned: 22 January 2025)
 Adv. Marumo Moerane (Resigned: 26 August 2025)
 Ms Onkgodisitse Mokonyane (Resigned: 15 July 2025)
 Ms Mary-Jane Morifi
 Adv. Kgomoiso Moroka
 Mr Ivan Moroke
 Ms Rita Motlana
 Ms Zanele Ngwepe
 Mr Victor Nosi (Resigned: 27 September 2024)
 Mr Sizwe Nzimande
 Mr Johannes Seoloane
 Mr Maseda Ratshikuni
 Ms Nonzukiso Siyotula (Resigned: 01 August 2025)
 Prof Zebulon Vilakazi
 Ms Nozizwe Vundla

5. Independent Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. was the independent auditor for the year under review.



Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

Our opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (the Trust) as at 31 March 2025, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard.

What we have audited

Nelson Mandela Children's Fund's financial statements set out on pages 9 to 28 comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025;
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in trust funds for the year then ended;
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' *Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors* (IRBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)*.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the documents titled "Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025" and "Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Annual Report 2024/2025". The other information does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

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Chief Executive Officer: L. S. Machaba
The Company's principal place of business is at 4 Lisbon Lane, Waterfall City, Jukskei View, where a list of directors' names is available for inspection.
Reg. no. 1998/012055/21, VAT reg. no. 4920174662

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designed perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.
Director: NMI Makone
Registered Auditor
Johannesburg, South Africa
8 October 2023

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Position

Figures in R	Notes	2025	2024
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	7,054,026	7,808,159
Financial Assets	5	1,118,903,110	1,032,351,032
Total non-current assets		1,125,957,136	1,040,159,191
Current assets			
Inventories	6	390,153	337,364
Trade and other receivables	7	21,697,639	87,719
Cash and cash equivalents	8	118,555,094	124,172,241
Total current assets		140,642,886	124,597,324
Total assets		1,266,600,022	1,164,756,515
Trust funds and liabilities			
Trust funds			
Accumulated surplus	9	1,218,070,307	1,102,542,635
Other non-distributable reserves	10	17,055,005	34,104,701
Total trust funds		1,235,125,312	1,136,647,336
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	4,917,730	5,698,444
Conditional grants payable	12	7,294,913	8,422,889
Deferred income	13	19,262,067	13,987,846
Total current liabilities		31,474,710	28,109,179
Total trust funds and liabilities		1,266,600,022	1,164,756,515

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Figures in R	Notes	2025	2024
Revenue	15	15,260,977	25,683,811
Fundraising income	16	7,807,860	8,013,696
Administrative expenses	17	(22,267,937)	(20,937,152)
Programme development expenses	18	(48,244,358)	(53,686,498)
Fair value gains	19	87,539,793	61,354,457
Surplus from operating activities		40,096,335	20,428,314
Finance income	20	58,381,640	56,986,602
Surplus for the year		98,477,975	77,414,916
Other comprehensive income net of tax			
Components of other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit			
Gains on fair value reserve fund		-	2,567,994
Total other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit		-	2,567,994
Total other comprehensive income net of tax		-	2,567,994
Total comprehensive income		98,477,975	79,982,910

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Changes in Trust Funds

Figures in R	Fair Value Reserve fund	Accumulated surplus	Total
Balance at 1 April 2023	29,712,003	1,025,127,719	1,054,839,722
Changes in trust funds			
Surplus for the year		77,414,916	77,414,916
Other comprehensive income	2,567,998	-	2,567,998
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,567,998	77,414,916	79,982,914
Other adjustments	1,824,702	-	1,824,702
Balance at 31 March 2024	34,104,702	1,102,542,635	1,136,647,337
Balance at 1 April 2024	34,104,702	1,102,542,635	1,136,647,337
Changes in trust funds			
Surplus for the year	-	98,477,975	98,477,975
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	98,477,975	98,477,975
Transfer between trust funds	5 (17,049,697)	17,049,697	-
Balance at 31 March 2025	17,055,005	1,218,070,307	1,235,125,312

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

Figures in R	Note	2025	2024 Restated
Cash flows used in operations			
Surplus for the year		98,477,975	77,414,916
Adjustments to reconcile surplus			
Adjustments for Finance income		(58,381,640)	(56,986,602)
Adjustments for increase in inventories		(52,789)	(67,474)
Adjustments for (increase) / decrease in trade accounts receivable		(1,196,990)	186,750
Adjustments for (increase) / decrease in other operating receivables		(20,412,942)	689,777
Adjustments for (decrease) / increase in trade accounts payable		(1,665,113)	5,093,638
Adjustments for decrease in other operating payables		(243,565)	(414,647)
Adjustments for increase / (decrease) in deferred income		5,274,221	(4,223,939)
Adjustments for donations received		-	(22,528,149)
Adjustment for depreciation		849,933	868,411
Adjustments for revaluation surplus		1,089,890	130,594
Adjustments for Fair value gains on non-current assets		(87,539,793)	(61,354,457)
Total adjustments to reconcile surplus		(162,278,788)	(138,606,098)
Net cash flows used in operations		(63,800,813)	(61,191,182)
Dividends received		-	4,186,952
Interest received		8,859,812	18,466,757
Donations received		-	22,528,149
Net cash flows used in operating activities		(54,941,001)	(16,009,324)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		-	105,050
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(95,800)	(178,785)
Withdrawal of financial assets		49,521,833	50,000,000
Proceeds from disposal of other financial assets		(102,179)	-
Cash flows from investing activities		49,323,854	49,926,265
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(5,617,147)	33,916,941
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		124,172,241	90,255,300
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	8	118,555,094	124,172,241

*Refer to note 24 for correction note

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

1. General information

Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (the Fund) is a discretionary inter vivos trust and is registered in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997). The primary aim of the Fund is to change the way society treats its children and youth.

2. Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements of NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND have been prepared in accordance with IFRS for SME's and also complies with the IFRS for SME's standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain property, plant and equipment and financial instruments at fair value. They are presented in South African Rand (R).

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS for SME's requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the non-profit organisation's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed in note 3.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these annual financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the trustees.

The trust adds to the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment the cost of replacing parts of such an item when that cost is incurred if the replacement part is expected to provide incremental future benefits to the trust. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to surplus or deficit during the period in which they are incurred.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives range as follows:

Asset class	Useful life / depreciation rate
Land	Indefinite
Buildings	50 years
Machinery	5 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Fixtures and fittings	4 years
Office equipment	5 years
Work in progress	
Artworks	Indefinite

Work in progress

Work in progress relates to provision of assets ordered but not yet paid by the organisation at year end. The assets will be transferred to the respective asset categories once delivered and paid for in full.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies continued...

Artworks

After initial recognition, the trust measures artworks using the revaluation model. Artworks measured in accordance with the revaluation model is shown at fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting period. Increases in the carrying amount are recognised in statement of profit or loss. Decreases in the carrying amount are recognised in surplus or deficit.

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised within 'other gains / (losses)' in the statement of comprehensive income.

2.2 Financial instruments

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the trust will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade and other receivables are classified as debt instruments and loan commitments at amortised cost.

Trade and other receivables are subsequently stated at amortised cost.

Other financial assets

Other financial assets are recognised initially at the transaction price, including transaction costs except where the asset will subsequently be measured at fair value.

Where other financial assets relate to shares that are publicly traded, or where fair values can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort, these assets are subsequently measured at fair value with the changes in fair value being recognised in profit or loss.

Other investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Debt instruments are subsequently stated at amortised cost. Interest income is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in finance income.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, demand deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Bank overdrafts are shown in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies continued...

Cash include notes and coins on hand and cash held with banks rated by Moody's as Ba2, B1 and Baa3. Cash equivalents are highly liquid financial assets with original maturities three months or less, which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in their fair value and are used by the fund in the management of its short-term commitments. These include short-term deposits.

Trade and other payables

Trade payables are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Trade payables are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms and do not bear interest.

Trade payables are subsequently stated at amortised cost.

Trust capital and accumulated surplus

The Fund's objective when managing capital are to safeguard the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns to beneficiaries and to maintain an optimal reserve structure. The Fund's capital consists of income reserves, fair value reserves and the Mott endowment reserve. In order to maintain or adjust this reserve structure, the Fund constantly monitors this structure. Currently, the required reserves are funded by the operational and investing activities of the Fund.

Retained earnings consist of all revenues, capital gains and losses retained by the trust after the payment of all expenses, taxes and distributions of income and capital gains to beneficiaries.

Other financial asset

These financial assets are initially measured at fair value. When a financial asset or financial liability is recognised initially, an entity shall measure it at the transaction price (including transaction costs except in the initial measurement of financial assets and liabilities that are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss).

At subsequent reporting dates these are measured at fair value through profit and loss. An impairment loss is recognised in surplus or deficit when there is objective evidence that the asset is impaired, and is measured as the difference between the investment's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the effective interest rate computed at initial recognition. Impairment losses are reversed in subsequent periods when an increase in the investment's recoverable amount can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, subject to the restriction that the carrying amount of the investment at the date the impairment is reversed shall not exceed what the amortised cost would have been had the impairment not been recognised.

Financial assets that the trust has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held to maturity.

2.3 Prepayments

Prepayments consist of various payments that have been made in advance for goods and services to be received in future. Prepayments are measured at amortised cost, and are derecognised when the goods and services to which the prepayment relate have been received.

2.4 Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. At each reporting date, inventories are assessed for impairment. If inventory is impaired, the carrying amount is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell; the impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies continued...

2.5 Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

The revenue is made of income from restricted and non-restricted donations, donations in kind, programme designated funding.

2.5.2 Finance Income

The Finance Income is made up of interest and dividends from NMCF Endowment.

Dividend income is recognised when the trust's right to receive payment has been established and is shown as 'finance income'.

2.6 Grants

Grants received where the Fund has yet to comply with all attached conditions are recognised as a liability and released to income when all attached conditions have been complied with.

2.7 Related parties

A related party is a person or entity with the ability to control or jointly control the other party, or exercise significant influence over the other party, or vice versa, or an entity that is subject to common control, or joint control. As a minimum, the following are regarded as related parties of the reporting entity:

- A person or a close member of that person's family is related to a reporting entity if that person:
 - has control or joint control of the reporting entity;
 - has significant influence over the reporting entity; or
 - is a member of the key management personnel of the reporting entity or of a parent of the reporting entity.
- An entity is related to the reporting entity if any of the following conditions apply:
 - The entity and the reporting entity are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others);
 - One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member);
 - Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party;
 - One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity;
 - The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the reporting entity or an entity related to the reporting entity. If the reporting entity is itself such a plan, the sponsoring employers are also related to the reporting entity;
 - The entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified as a related party;
 - A person identified as having control or joint control over the reporting entity has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel (Trustee, CEO and CFO) of the entity (or of a parent of the entity);
 - The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the reporting entity or to the parent of the reporting entity.

A related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between a reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies continued...

2.8 Impairment of non-financial assets other than inventories

Other non-financial assets consist of various payments that have been made in advance for goods and services to be received in future. Other non-financial assets are measured at amortised cost, and are derecognised when the goods and services to which the prepayment relate have been received.

Assets that are subject to depreciation or amortisation are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication that the assets are impaired. Where there is any indication that an asset may be impaired, the carrying value of the asset (or cash-generating unit to which the asset has been allocated) is tested for impairment. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's (or CGU's) fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (CGUs). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

3. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

No significant estimates and adjustments have been applied in the preparation of these annual financial statements.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

Figures in R

2025 2024

4. Property, plant and equipment

Balances at year end and movements for the year

	Land	Buildings	Machinery	Motor vehicles	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Work in progress	Artworks	Total
Reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2025									
Balance at 1 April 2024	881,000	4,912,971	200,874	576,881	1,500,026	1,691,796	-	2,534,300	12,297,848
At cost	-	(1,965,189)	(200,874)	(381,010)	(708,044)	(1,234,572)	-	-	(4,489,689)
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount	881,000	2,947,782	-	195,871	791,982	457,224	-	2,534,300	7,808,159
Movements for the year ended 31 March 2025									
Additions from acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	95,800	-	-	95,800
Depreciation	-	(98,259)	-	(138,061)	(318,980)	(294,633)	-	-	(849,933)
Property, plant and equipment at the end of the year	881,000	2,849,523	-	57,810	473,002	258,391	-	2,534,300	7,054,026
Closing balance at 31 March 2025									
At cost	881,000	4,912,971	200,874	576,881	1,500,026	1,774,265	-	2,534,300	12,380,317
Accumulated depreciation	-	(2,063,448)	(200,874)	(519,071)	(1,027,024)	(1,515,874)	-	-	(5,326,291)
Carrying amount	881,000	2,849,523	-	57,810	473,002	258,391	-	2,534,300	7,054,026
Reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2024									
Balance at 1 April 2023	881,000	4,912,971	200,874	576,881	1,416,876	1,622,820	93,045	2,534,300	12,238,767
At cost	-	(1,866,929)	(200,874)	(236,750)	(392,902)	(945,625)	-	-	(3,643,120)
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount	881,000	3,046,042	-	340,091	1,023,974	677,195	93,045	2,534,300	8,595,647

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2803/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

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Figures in R		2025	2024
Property, plant and equipment continued...			
Movements for the year ended 31 March			
2024			
Additions from acquisitions	-	83,150	95,635
Depreciation	(98,260)	(315,142)	(310,789)
Disposals	-	-	(4,817)
	-	-	(93,045)
Property, plant and equipment at the end of the year	881,000	791,982	457,224
		2,534,300	7,808,159
Closing balance at 31 March 2024			
At cost	881,000	1,500,026	1,691,796
Accumulated depreciation	-	(708,044)	(1,234,572)
Carrying amount	881,000	791,982	457,224
		2,534,300	7,808,159

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

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5. Financial Assets

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss comprise the following balances:

CORONATION MAIN

Opening Balance	689,850,310	666,466,019
Drawings	(49,521,833)	(61,393,026)
Dividends	6,807,643	8,180,287
Withholding tax	(155,401)	(313,223)
Interest	24,329,962	24,670,258
Expenses	(3,785)	(100,636)
Realised profit/(loss)	41,490,342	47,121,051
Unrealised interest earned	1,665,161	5,678,708
Unrealised gain/(Loss)	16,616,501	(459,128)
Closing balance	731,078,900	689,850,310

CORONATION MOTT

Opening Balance	50,373,172	44,509,337
Dividends	659,581	300,841
Withholding tax	(8,368)	(9,070)
Interest	1,177,593	1,708,874
Rebates	698,996	618,893
Unrealised profit	3,657,888	3,244,297
Closing balance	56,558,862	50,373,172

MELLVILLE DOUGLAS

Opening Balance	292,060,050	271,365,910
Drawings		(4,528,225)
Dividends	5,336,639	4,558,264
Interest	9,716,160	10,539,021
Expenses	(24,906)	(29,646)
Realised profit	55,893,314	3,463,394
Unrealised (Loss)/Gain	(31,783,409)	6,691,332
Closing balance	331,197,848	292,060,050

INVESTEC

Opening Balance	67,500	67,500
Closing balance	67,500	67,500
	1,118,903,110	1,032,351,032

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

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Financial Assets continued...

Correction of error note:

In the prior year the Coronation Mott financial asset was assessed and measured at fair value through other comprehensive income and as such, fair value gains amounting to R2.5 million were recognised in other comprehensive income.

In the current year, management reassessed the measurement of this financial asset in accordance with Section 11 and 12 of IFRS for SME.

Following this, it was determined that the investment is not a complex financial instrument and therefore does not meet the criteria to be measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

As such, in the current year, fair value adjustments amounting to R3.6 million were recognised in profit or loss.

Accumulated fair value adjustments previously recognised in other comprehensive income amounting to R17 million, were recycled to accumulated surplus in the current year.

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

Figures in R	2025	2024
6. Inventories		
Inventories comprise:		
Marketing merchandise	390,153	337,364
7. Trade and other receivables		
7.1 Trade and other receivables comprise:		
Trade receivables	1,226,374	29,396
Deposits	45,131	45,131
Value added tax	411,499	-
Bridging Finance - NMCH	20,014,635	13,192
Total trade and other receivables	21,697,639	87,719
7.2 Bridging Finance		
The funds were repaid following the government grant to the NMCH. These funds are payable once funds are received from Treasury.		
8. Cash and cash equivalents		
8.1 Cash and cash equivalents included in current assets:		
Cash		
Balances with banks	118,555,094	124,172,241
8.2 Cash and cash equivalents where availability is restricted		
Cash held on behalf of the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital amounting to R50 million (2023: R 50 million) comprises funds which may only be utilised for purposes of the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital after proceedings of winding up the Trust have been finalised.		
9. Accumulated surplus		
Accumulated surplus		
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year	1,102,542,635	1,025,127,719
Surplus for the year	98,477,975	77,414,916
Transfers between trust funds	17,049,697	-
Accumulated surplus at the end of the year	1,218,070,307	1,102,542,635

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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10. Non-distributable reserve

10.1 Nature and purpose of reserves

In 2002 a grant amounting to US\$2 million was received from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. This grant was recorded in accordance with the grant agreement as a permanent endowment and shown as a separate reserve. The amount has been invested in a separate portfolio with Coronation Fund Managers. If, at any time, the principal amount of this grant is not maintained in a segregated fund or should the Fund cease to exist, the Fund will be obliged to return the capital portion of this endowment to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation forthwith. The Fund may only utilise the income earned on the endowment to fund its charitable activities.

The agreement with Charles Stewart Mott Foundation was renegotiated in 2017. The principal amount was changed from US\$2 million to a Rand denominated amount of R17,055,000.

Refer to note 5 for details of the transfers between trust funds

10.2 Reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2025

Major investment items	Opening balance	Other changes	Closing Balance
MOTT Endowment	34,104,702	(17,049,697)	17,055,005

10.3 Reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2024

Major investment items	Opening balance	Other changes	Closing balance
MOTT Endowment	29,712,004	4,392,698	34,104,702

11. Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables comprise:

Trade creditors	1,477,541	2,014,701
Accrued liabilities	3,440,189	3,656,874
Value added tax	-	26,880
Total trade and other payables	4,917,730	5,698,455

12. Conditional grants payable

Conditional grants payable comprise:

Opening Balance	8,422,889	3,498,051
Grants paid	(27,770,366)	(27,614,906)
Grants approved during the year	26,642,390	32,539,744
Closing Balance	7,294,913	8,422,889

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

Figures in R	2025	2024
13. Deferred income		
Deferred income comprise:		
Balance at the beginning of the year	13,987,846	18,211,785
Funds received during the year	11,997,322	12,851,245
Funds recognised to income during the year	(6,723,100)	(17,075,184)
	<u>19,262,067</u>	<u>13,987,846</u>
14. Related-party transactions		
The following transactions were carried out with the related parties:		
Key management includes the Board of Directors (Executive and non-executive), all members of group management and the company secretary. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below:		
Total key management compensation	8,650,688	8,606,707
	<u>8,650,688</u>	<u>8,606,707</u>
15. Revenue		
Revenue comprises:		
Donations (Monetary) received	13,630,688	22,528,149
Programme designated funds	584,792	2,692,221
Donations in kind	1,045,497	463,441
Total revenue	<u>15,260,977</u>	<u>25,683,811</u>
16. Fundraising income		
Fundraising income comprises:		
Fundraising income	<u>7,807,860</u>	<u>8,013,696</u>
Fundraising income is unrestricted revenue from fundraising activities.		

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

Figures in R	2025	2024
17. Administrative expenses		
Administrative expenses comprise:		
Administration Travel & Transport Costs	73,398	193,044
Administrative expense	701,840	682,494
Audit fees	502,550	502,550
Depreciation	849,922	868,411
Equipment & Services	99,661	194,445
Fundraising expenses	875,731	345,396
Insurance	231,673	217,713
Investment expenses	566,876	639,760
IT Costs	473,108	373,288
Legal fees	218,793	271,016
Office operational costs	1,197,864	2,837,097
Organisational development	3,753,836	1,686,811
Personnel costs	11,633,327	11,184,833
Publicity & Communications	1,089,350	940,294
Total administrative expenses	22,267,928	20,937,152
18. Programme Development Expenses		
Programme Development Expenses comprise:		
Grants	26,642,390	32,479,464
* Programme development expenses	21,168,917	20,832,032
Social projects	433,051	375,002
Total other expenses	48,244,358	53,686,498
*Programme development expenses are inclusive of programme salaries included in note 16.		
19. Other gains		
Other gains comprise:		
Fair value gain on financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	87,539,793	61,354,457
Realised gains on the performance of the NMCF Investments as a result of the favourable economy and 100% reinvestment of dividends and interest.		

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

Figures in R	2025	2024
20. Finance income		
Finance income comprises:		
Interest received	45,733,178	44,269,430
Local dividends	12,648,462	12,717,172
Total finance income	58,381,640	56,986,602
21. Employee benefits expense		
Employee benefits expense comprises:		
Staff salaries	15,622,721	16,945,772
Executives and management	8,650,688	8,606,707
Total employee benefits expense	24,273,409	25,552,479

Executive and management refers to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Programs Officer, Human Resources Business Manager, Chief Engagement Officer and Fundraising Manager.

22. Taxation

In terms of section 10(1)(cN) of the Income Tax Act 1962, as amended, the Fund has been approved by the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service as a public benefit organisation. Accordingly, the Fund is exempt from income taxation.

23. Events after the reporting date

Changes in the governance structure. Eight Trustees resigned including the chairperson of the board before the Annual Financial Statements were approved by the board.

Mr Moss Ngoasheng - Deputy Chairperson (Resigned: 13 August 2024)

Ms. Nana Moipone Magomola - Chairperson (Resigned: 26 June 2025)

Mr Owen Maubane (Resigned: 29 July 2025)

Ms Lindiwe Mazibuko (Resigned: 22 October 2024)

Mr Ishmael Mkhabela (Resigned: 22 January 2025)

Adv. Marumo Moerane (Resigned: 26 August 2025)

Ms Onkgodisitse Mokonyane (Resigned: 15 July 2025)

Mr Victor Nosi (Resigned: 27 September 2024)

Ms Nonzuko Siyotula (Resigned: 01 August 2025)

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

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24. Correction of error - cash flow statement

The Trust earns, amongst others interest and dividends on their investments held with the fund managers (refer to note 5 to the financial statements). Until 31 January 2024, the Trust had arrangements with the fund managers, whereby a fixed percentage of the interest and dividends earned on the investments were paid to the Trust's bank account to fund the operating activities of the Trust. The remainder of the interest and dividends were capitalised on the respective investments.

The portion of the interest and dividends received, which were paid to the Trust's bank account, represents cashflow items whilst the amounts capitalised on the investments represent non-cash flow items.

Subsequent to 31 January 2024, the Trustees amended the arrangements with the respective Fund managers. In terms of the amended arrangements, the Trust will no longer receive a fixed percentage of the interest and dividends earned. The amendments authorise the Trust a withdrawal from the investments. An additional withdrawal of R50 million was approved for the 2024 financial year in order to fund the Trust's operations. A withdrawal of R50 million was made from the investments held during the year ended 31 March 2024.

During the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, management identified prior period errors in the presentation of Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2024. The errors identified were:

1. All dividend income, interest income and revaluation surpluses on the investments with fund managers were incorrectly accounted for as cash flow items as part of the cash inflows from operating activities. The amounts capitalised to the investments have been incorrectly accounted for as cashflow items. Consequently, dividends received and interest received and adjustments for revaluation surplus, presented as operating activities, were overstatement by R8,5 million, R25,8 million and R1,7 million.

2. The withdrawal of R50 million from investments was not separately disclosed as a cash flow item as part of Cash Flows from investing activities. The cash inflow from the withdrawal was incorrectly included in (i) the dividends received (ii) the interest received (iii) adjustments for revaluation surplus as part of net cash flows from operating activities and (iv) the purchase of other financial assets included in cash flows from investing activities. Consequently, the purchase of other financial assets was overstated by R13,9 million and the withdrawal of other financial assets were understated by R50 million.

The comparative information has been corrected in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S FUND

(Registration Number IT2801/95)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Material notes to the Financial Statements

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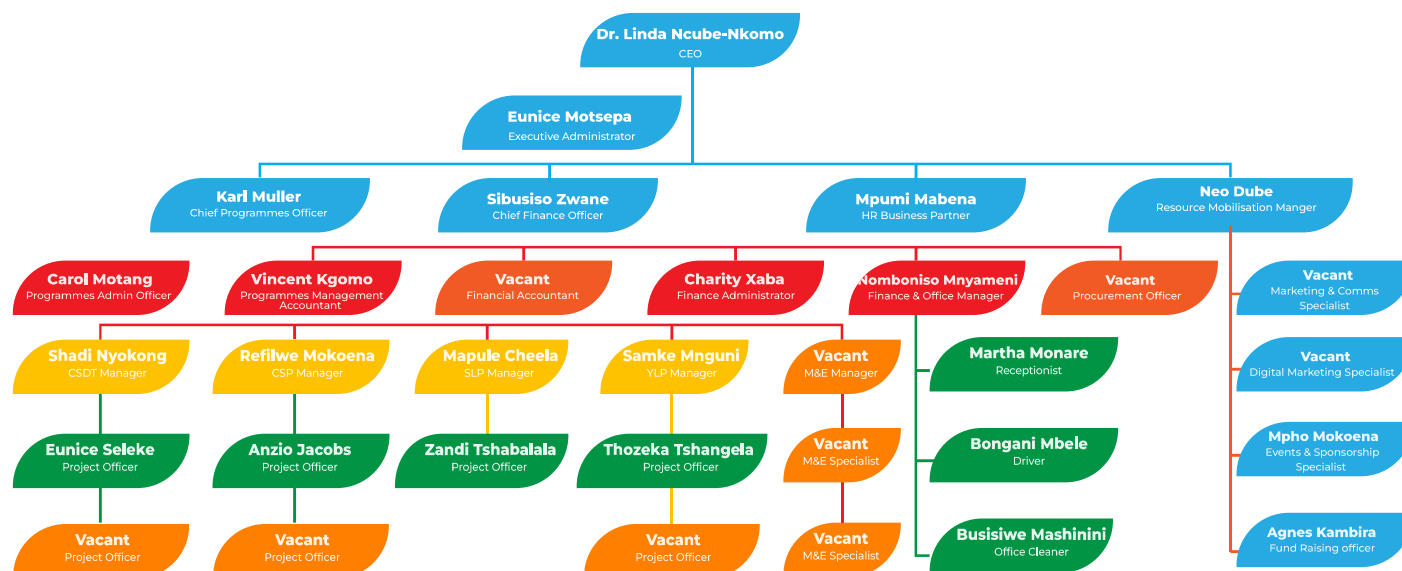
Correction of error - cash flow statement continued...

The impact of the above errors on the cash flow statement is as follows:

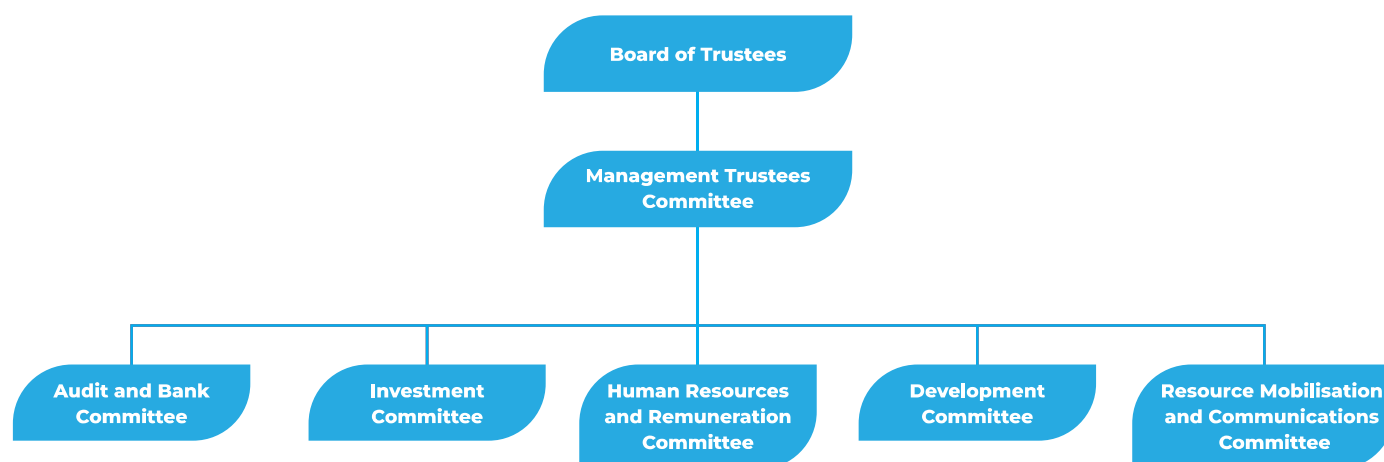
	Previously reported	Correction	Restated
Cash flows used in operations			
Adjustments to reconcile surplus			
Adjustments for revaluation surplus	1,824,701	(1,694,107)	130,594
Total adjustments to reconcile surplus	1,824,701	(1,694,107)	130,594
Net cash flows used in operations			
Dividends received	12,717,172	(8,530,220)	4,186,952
Interest received	44,269,430	(25,802,673)	18,466,757
Net cash flows used in operating activities	56,986,602	(34,332,893)	22,653,709
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	7,188	97,862	105,050
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(80,923)	(97,862)	(178,785)
Purchase of other financial assets	13,973,000	(13,973,000)	-
Withdrawal of other financial assets	-	50,000,000	50,000,000
Cash flows from investing activities	13,899,265	36,027,000	49,926,265
Total adjustments to reconcile to cash and cash equivalents as presented on the statement of financial position	72,710,568	-	72,710,568

* The prior period errors did not affect the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Changes in Trust Funds

Current NMCF Structure – with Incumbents



Fund's Governance Structure



Board of Trustees

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund is a trust with the **Board of Trustees** being the ultimate governing body of the Fund and is chaired by **Mr Mpho Makwana**. The Board of Trustees has delegated authority to the **Management Trustee committee (MTC)** to act for and on behalf of the Fund in every respect, while retaining for itself the following functions:

- Approving overall policy and strategy concerning the objectives of the Fund
- Receiving and adopting the financial statements of the Fund
- Ratifying and confirming the resolutions passed by the MTC since the previous annual general meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets once a year.

Management Trustee Committee

The **Management Trustee Committee (MTC)** is responsible to all stakeholders in general, and the Trustees, **donors and beneficiaries** in particular, for the performance and therefore the overall management of the Fund. The MTC's major responsibilities include ensuring that the Fund:

- Works towards achieving the goals and ideals set down in the founding document and agreed by the Board of Trustees, which include managing the affairs of the Fund in such a manner as to ensure the greatest possible
- Operates within the **Fund's Trust Deed**
- Operates within the confines of the Non-profit Organisation Act, Property Control Act, the Merchandising Marks Act and the Common Law
- Operates within the **resolutions passed at meetings of the MTC** in discharging its duties.
- MTC is responsible for the overall strategy and structure of the Fund
- The Fund's assets, distributions and the Fund's operations.

Management and Trustees Committee

Mr Mpho Makwana
(Chairperson)

Mr Rorisang Tshabalala
(Deputy Chairperson)

Ms Mary-Jane Morifi

Mr Ramotheo Moses Mashishi

Mr Sakhile Masuku

Mr Johannes Seoloane

Prof Zeblon Vilakazi

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo

Ms Zodwa Manase

Audit & Risk Committee

The Committee is responsible for monitoring the adequacy of the financial controls, accounting policies and financial reporting. It provides a forum through which the external auditors report to MTC. The Committee meets three times a year.

Ms Zodwa Manase
(Chairperson)

Mr Sakhile Masuku

Ms Zanele Ngwepe

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing investments in accordance with the approved Investment Policy Statement (IPS). The funds are managed by two asset managers, each operating under a distinct mandate. Investments are monitored during quarterly meetings with the asset managers and asset consultant, where detailed assessments are conducted to review performance and ensure alignment with the approved asset allocation mandates.

Mr Sakhile Masuku
(Chairperson)

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo

Ms Zanele Ngwepe

Mr Ramotheo Moses Mashishi

Human Resources & Remuneration Committee

The Committee considers and approves remuneration for the management of the Fund in line with the relevant market indicators. It is further responsible for determining the remuneration policy and employee benefits applicable to staff. It also considers and approves senior management appointments. The Committee meets twice a year.

Ms Mary-Jane Morifi
(Chairperson)

Mr Johannes Seoloane

Adv. Kgomotso Moroka

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo

Development Committee

The mandate of this Committee is to identify strategic and long-term partners for the strategy, to approve funding to identified partners and monitor the impact made upon the lives of children within communities. The Committee continually reviews the status development funding philosophy, policy and criteria in terms of appropriateness and ensures the Fund operates within a restricted budget. The Committee meets at least twice a year.

Mr Rorisang Tshabalala
(Chairperson)

Ms Rita Motlana

Ms Nozizwe Vundla

Ms Obenewa Amponsah

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo

Fundraising and Engagement Committee

The mandate of the Committee is to advise management on all aspects of business development, monitor management of the brand and monitor the implementation of the fundraising and communication strategies as well as the performance and compliance of affiliate offices in line with the signed Licensing Agreements. The committee meets at least three times a year.

Mr Moses Mashishi
(Chairperson)

Mr Mpho Makwana

Mr Maseda Ratshikuni

Mr Sizwe Nzimande

Ms Mary-Jane OMorifi

Mr Ivan Moroke

Dr Linda Ncube-Nkomo

Fundraising Highlights

April 2024 to March 2025

The Resource Mobilisation Unit drove innovative campaigns and forged meaningful partnerships to ensure the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund continues to create lasting impact for children and youth. Our fundraising initiatives reflected creativity, inclusivity, and a spirit of collaboration with individuals, corporates, and communities across the globe.



Mandelathon

The Mandelathon campaign, launched on 18 July 2023 (International Mandela Day) continued to bring communities together in a healthy, active, and inspiring way. Participation from individuals, corporates, and schools grew, reinforcing the spirit of collective responsibility for children's wellbeing. The campaign encourages giving at various tiers (R67, R670, R6,700, or custom amounts), showing that every contribution matters! No donation is too small, and together, we can create real, lasting change.



ForKidsByKids Initiatives

Young people once again stepped forward as champions for their peers, designing and leading their own fundraising initiatives. Their creativity and passion remind us that every child has the power to contribute to positive change. A shining example of this commitment is the Grade 3 learners of Mountain Road Primary School in Cape Town, who have consistently supported the Fund year after year. The class of 2024 received a Certificate of Outstanding Participation and Commitment in recognition of their ongoing efforts to help those less fortunate. Their dedication reflects the spirit of ForKidsByKids Children empowering children through compassion and action.



NMCF Cannes Gala Dinner

As part of our global reach, the Fund hosted the NMCF Cannes Gala Dinner in May 2024. This event highlighted our ability to partner with diverse audiences across the world, reinforcing the message that we work with everyone and everywhere in the service of children.

Volunteer Engagement

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers who gave their time, energy, and expertise. Their contribution enhanced the success of multiple campaigns and events throughout the year.



Face-to-Face Fundraising

The Face-to-Face (F2F) Fundraising Programme, launched in December 2024, marked a significant milestone in our income diversification strategy. With a dedicated team of four members, the programme has already engaged over 2,000 donors - both once-off and regular contributors - laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term giving. We continue to encourage individuals, corporates, and partners to see giving as a powerful way of supporting the Fund's programmes. Each contribution, big or small, helps us build a safer, healthier, and more nurturing environment for children.

Corporate Partnerships & Sponsorships

We have deepened our relationships with our corporate partners, who contributed through sponsorships, in-kind donations, and employee volunteer programmes. These partnerships played a vital role in sustaining our programmes.

30th Anniversary Preparations

As we approached our 30th year, several fundraising activities in 2024 laid the foundation for our milestone celebrations in 2025. This momentum will ensure that our anniversary year serves as a springboard for expanded impact.

Donors and Partners

Thank you to the donors who supported the Fund from April 2024 to March 2025. We are grateful for your support.

Donors: April 2024 - March 2025

ABSA
Akhona Group Pty Ltd
Alexandria Project LLC
Amelia Clarke
Anais Lorthiot Formisano
Anri Steyn
ASB Communications
Barbara Nell
Bartherschother Investments CC - T/A ATG Digital
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Bronwen Cadle de Ponte
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Sasol
The Bill and Rose Hall Testamentary Trust
Tigers Eye Retail Division of Tourvest Holdings
Pty Ltd
Villa Oxygene
Vundla Family Trust
WAL Community Foundation
Whiz Biz (Pty) Ltd

Individual Givers - April 2024 - March 2025

A Winer ED
V. Vakes
R. Roopo
R. Rhett
N. Hansjee
S Shane
Edwin Mampa
Rakesh Maharg
Rene Van Son
Tcent Vandenberg
Angela Aonigon
Renee Cary
Luyanda Annita
Khunjulwa Mjoli
Genevieve Kaplaau
Dr Schopman
Dr Solanges Vivens
Ebrahim Sujee
Eunice Motsepa
F Makakase
Francois van Niekerk
Geetash Jairam
Harjer Kadhim
Harry Moolman
Heather Hart

Hege LeCourt
 Herman Singh
 Hoosain Adam
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 Jack Motaung
 Jasiel Svinurai
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 Kabelo Mahlase
 Karien Mayer
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 L Shabane
 Lawrence Wulfsohn
 Lehlohonolo Mononyane
 Leon Botha
 Letladi Matjie
 Linda Ncube-Nkomo
 Lynne Pacoe
 Manuella Manolas
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 Mark Leicher
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 P B Manana
 P B Fitzroy
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 Preetie Agarwal
 R Zoo
 Rav Guinness
 Renee Symolon
 Reygana Shade
 Rorisang Tshabalala
 Russel Luck
 Rutger den Daas
 Samukelisiwe Mnguni
 Seabata Motsepa
 Sellwane Mafisa
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 Sherika Gopla
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 Moaurie Tlhoale
 Claudelle Mukeba
 Quinn Lezar
 Nokwethemba Nzama
 Matodzi Mufamadi
 Miescha Valadao
 Thembi Mphela
 Lesego Mabila
 Lebogang Mokobane
 Dhevaraj Moodley
 Obed Sebobe
 Sphehile Gumede
 Molemo Motebang
 Nthabiseng Lepheana
 Luyanda Maome
 Kelly Player
 Cleo Venter
 Kopano Lepheana
 Ouma Qangule
 Wandile Moeketsane
 Naledi Koebe
 Mbali Mthombeni
 Lebogang Kanyane
 Remofilwe Tshwabi
 Ridgewell Madzokee
 Abrian Ngcobo
 Luke Mulville
 Kayla Marques
 Thulani Ngcebetsha
 Modiri Keebine
 Modise Khoza
 Mohammed Adam
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 Nkanyiso Mkhize
 Nomboniso Mnyameni
 Ntokozo Magwaza

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Nelson Mandela CHILDREN'S FUND®



CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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