

**CHILD CARE & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

# IMPACT REPORT



**MAR 2023  
TO  
FEB 2024**

**"Transforming Lives and Empowering Communities:  
Tjommie and Ndlovu Care Group's Impact in 2023"**

**TJOMMIE**  
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**NDLOVU**  
**CARE GROUP**



# INTRODUCTION

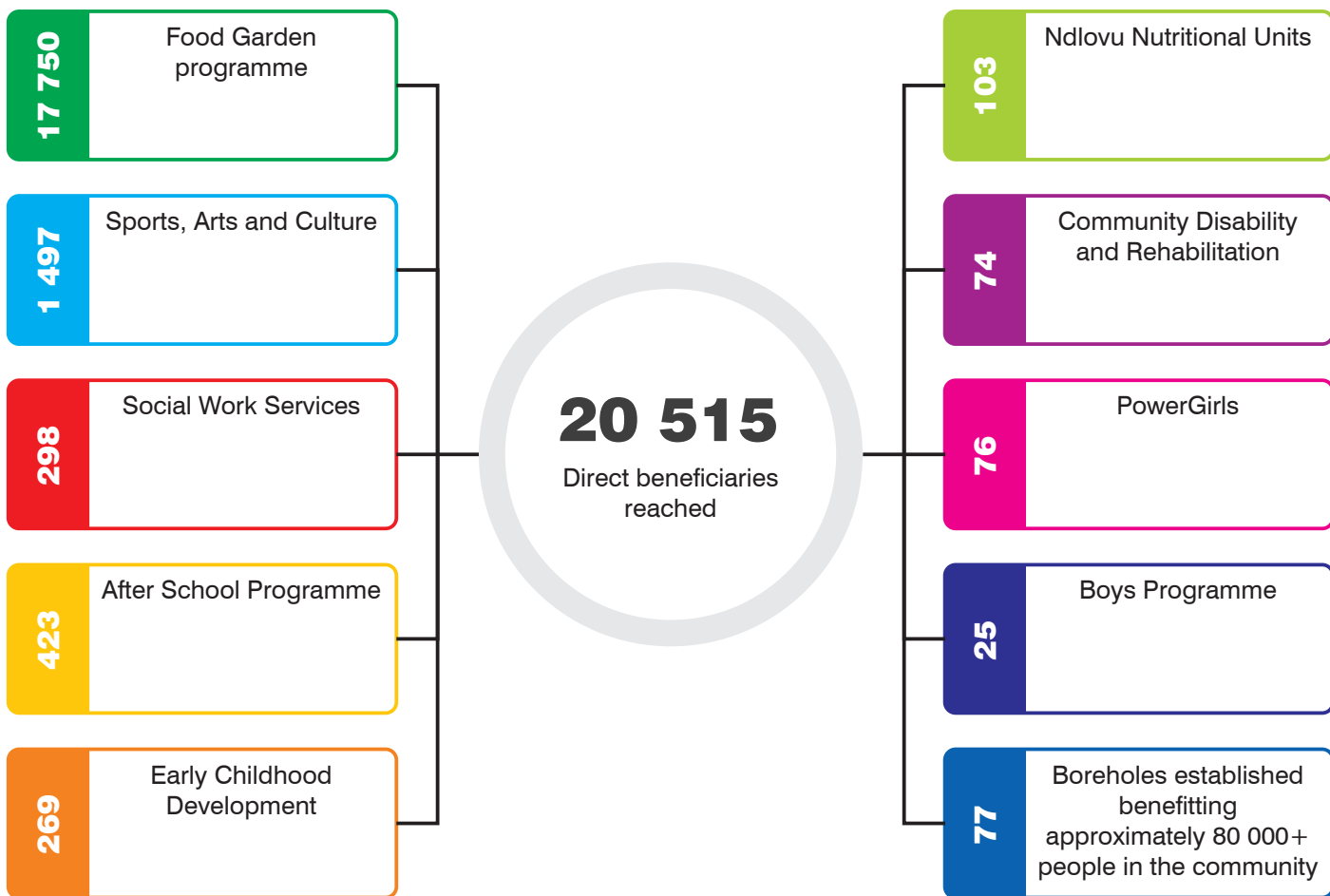


Our Child Care & Youth Development programmes persist in guiding vulnerable children and youth toward a promising future within the Moutse communities. These indispensable programmes encompass a diverse array of initiatives, each playing a vital role in our comprehensive approach to community development. Without this crucial support, sustaining the scope of our current operations in these pivotal programmes would be challenging. The impact of Tjommie’s funding is profound, enabling us to advance our mission of holistic community development. Throughout the duration of this reporting period, we have made a

significant impact on the lives of those we serve, demonstrating our unwavering commitment and effectiveness in fulfilling our programme’s mission. Anchored in our organizational guiding principle of providing services “from Cradle to Career,” our Child Care & Youth Development programmes offer a comprehensive continuum of care and assistance. By facilitating a seamless transition for children as they progress through different stages of development, tailored to their specific needs and age groups, we are laying the foundation for their journey towards self-actualization.

## Programme Outcomes in Numbers

As we reflect on the impact of our Child Care & Youth Development Programmes in 2023, let's take a look at the summary in numbers.



In this report, we aim to provide insights into the remarkable impact of our programmes and share compelling stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed through Tjommie's contributions. Together, we are making significant strides in transforming the lives

of vulnerable children and empowering disadvantaged communities to strive towards self-sufficiency. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication, we are creating lasting change and building brighter futures for those we serve.



# FOOD GARDENS PROGRAMME



The Ndlovu Food Garden Programme aim to stimulate food production and local agri-enterprise community development opportunities for women and youths in rural communities of Moutse Valley, Limpopo Province. The programme has played a pivotal role in our ongoing efforts to enhance food security in Moutse, resulting in the establishment of nearly numerous gardens by this reporting period. As we assess our progress, we recognize that sustainability is paramount. With our AFAS Farm operating as a knowledge-sharing hub to our community people, we continue to empower both women and youths

with theory and practice on how to start and maintain backyard food gardens. We also continue to support the programme beneficiaries with vital inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers and basic farming implements. Our continuous monitoring exercises also help to ensure the food gardens are operational and provision of necessary support is extended where challenges are identified. We now have 2 900 gardens established as of February 2024 with the goal of not only improving food security but also sustainable livelihoods through agricultural enterprise development.





# Impact Story

## Anna with seeds for her farm, thanks to Ndlovu support, 2023

Anna Matsena, a 50-year-old resident of Phooko village, wears multiple hats as a mother, wife, and entrepreneur, serving as the primary breadwinner for her family. In 2019, Anna embarked on a journey to establish her small garden alongside her family. As word spread within the community, local businesses expressed interest in purchasing her fresh produce. However, Anna faced challenges due to limited resources at her disposal.

During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Ndlovu intervened by initiating a food garden team, of which Anny became a part. The Ndlovu Food Garden Champions provided Anna with essential resources, including gardening tools, a water wheel tanker, and seedlings. These resources proved instrumental in expanding her garden significantly, attracting more clientele to her budding gardening enterprise.

As Anna’s business continued to flourish, the scale of her operations outgrew the capacity of the food garden champions to supply her with seedlings. Nonetheless, as a collective effort, the team opted to equip Anna with seeds and imparted knowledge on seed preparation



techniques. Anna received a variety of seeds, including spinach, beetroot, tomatoes, and peppers. Empowered with these resources and knowledge, Anna not only expanded her business but also became a catalyst for employment generation within the community.



Today, Anna’s farm stands as a testament to her entrepreneurial spirit and hard work. She has secured partnerships with major retail chains such as Boxer, Pick n Pay, and Choppies, supplying them with fresh vegetables sourced directly from her garden. Furthermore, Anna actively engages youth from the community, offering them employment opportunities as both permanent staff and contract workers during peak seasons.

Anna’s success story serves as an inspiration, highlighting the transformative impact of community-based initiatives and collaborative efforts in fostering sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment. Through resilience and resourcefulness, Anna has not only transformed her own life but has also become a beacon of hope and prosperity for her community.

## AFAS FARM



The dual objective of boosting local food production and fostering economic empowerment among the youth and local community remains the central focus of our efforts at AFAS Farm, also known as Ndlovu Care Group (NCG). Since 2020, we dedicated significant efforts to bolstering the infrastructure of the farm, recognizing its pivotal role in fostering a sustainable and thriving community. One of the notable enhancements was the establishment of a farmhouse equipped with a storage facility and ablution amenities. This addition serves not only as a practical necessity but also as a symbolic representation of our dedication to creating a conducive environment for learning and growth. The farmhouse stands as a testament to our belief in the transformative power of education and hands-on experience in shaping the lives of local community youth and women.

In tandem with this development, we undertook the installation of a drip irrigation system at the farm. This strategic upgrade is a crucial component of our vision to position the farm as a central hub for both agricultural production and knowledge dissemination. By incorporating efficient irrigation techniques, we aim to

minimise water losses as we optimize agricultural output, ensuring a sustainable source of food and income for the local community youths involved in production. Our overarching goal is to combat food poverty and catalyse sustainable community development through sustainable means of production. The farmhouse, serves as a platform for educational programs and skill-building initiatives targeted at local youths and women. Through these endeavours, we aspire to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to not only contribute to their own well-being but also to the overall prosperity of the community.

As we navigate the path forward, our dedication to the principles of inclusivity, education, and sustainable development remains steadfast. AFAS Farm stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity, where the synergy of infrastructure upgrades and educational initiatives converges to create a lasting impact on the lives of the local community. Together, we strive to cultivate a future where every individual has the tools and resources needed to thrive, fostering a community that is resilient, self-sufficient, and harmoniously interconnected.



## Infrastructural Developments at AFAS Farm in 2023

The farmhouse and storage facility were all combined under one property to improve on efficiency with the following objectives:

- **To provide the farm Caretaker with a safe and secure home for both personal safety and tool storage.**
- **To reduce the risk of damage or loss to farm tools and equipment.**
- **To provide safe storage and preservation of harvests to improve quality of the produce.**

In addition, a toilet was also built at the farm to improve the comfort and convenience of visitors, donors, community

members and other key stakeholders at the farm while also promoting a safe and hygienic environment. The toilet is conveniently located within the yard for ease of accessibility to farm dwellers, visitors and community members, whilst not being too close to where food is prepared or consumed.

The installation of an irrigation system was also critical to enhance efficiencies in terms of water use in production. This is also in line with modern farming methods where production has to take place throughout the year without relying much on the rains.

### a. The Farmhouse



The farmhouse structure ready for plastering and finishes, 2023



Final outlook of the farmhouse, 2023

### b. The Toilets



The hygiene centre toilet, 2023

## c. The Irrigation System



Team laying the irrigation system, 2023



System operability check completed with excellence, 2023

## Farm Production

With the successful implementation of the irrigation system, a transformative chapter unfolded at AFAS Farm, marked by the initiation of cash crop production aimed at empowering our local youths and women economically. Commencing on 1st September 2023, our endeavour focused on cultivating tomatoes and peppers within the confines of our newly established greenhouses. This strategic decision not only serves the purpose of diversifying agricultural activities but also positions the farm as a hub for hands-on learning and skill development. The comprehensive structure of our current production scheme is designed to actively engage local farmers, particularly youths and women, in every stage of the agricultural process. From the meticulous steps of planting and crop management to implementing spraying programs, executing efficient harvesting techniques, and

delving into the intricacies of storage – our aim is to impart a holistic understanding of the entire cultivation cycle.

Furthermore, the initiative extends beyond the fields to cover essential aspects such as marketing strategies and bookkeeping techniques. Recognizing the importance of these skills in ensuring the economic sustainability of farming endeavours, we have integrated comprehensive training sessions into the program. This holistic approach seeks not only to cultivate crops but also to cultivate a new generation of skilled and knowledgeable individuals who can navigate the complexities of modern agriculture. The involvement of a dedicated group consisting of 10-15 local youths and women during the current crop production exemplifies our commitment to community engagement and empowerment. By fostering this



collaborative environment, we aim to create a collective learning experience where participants actively contribute to and benefit from the agricultural journey.

To visually document and share this exciting production journey, we have captured key moments in a series of pictures. These images serve as a testament to

the dedication, enthusiasm, and collective efforts of our community members as they embark on this transformative endeavour. As we witness the growth of crops, we are also witnessing the growth of knowledge, skills, and economic opportunities for our local youths and women, paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous community.

## a. Planting

The planting was carried out with the active participation of enthusiastic youths and women from the local community who are passionate about farming, as an integral component of our Learners' Program.



Learners being taught how to plant tomatoes, 2023



Planting in progress, 2023





## b. Plant growth and management

The success of any crop hinges on the meticulous management of its growth trajectory. This entails precise watering, timely addition of fertilizers, efficient pest control, and adept management of weeds. Therefore, we adhered to a systematic program for the cultivation of tomatoes, aiming to optimize our prospects for a bountiful harvest.



Tomatoes turn green, 2023



Tomatoes nearing the flowering stage, 2023



Team busy with weed control, 2023

## c. Harvesting

Harvesting tomatoes from the determinate variety we cultivated typically spans a two-to-three-week window. Through a strategic approach of staggering our sections across different weeks, we envision an extended harvesting period at the farm, spanning approximately 2 months. Our initial harvest took place in the second week of January 2024, and we project ongoing harvesting activities across all the sections we planted until mid-March 2024.



Tomatoes producing their early fruit, 2023



The effective spraying programme helps to produce quality tomatoes, 2023



The first harvest ready for grading, 2023



Grading and packaging in progress, 2023



## d. Marketing

The sale of the produce constitutes a crucial aspect of the production chain as it is the stage where returns are actualized. To address this, we have forged market connections for our production team, establishing links with various entities such as local vegetable vendors, supermarkets, fast-food outlets, lodges, community members, and local professionals. This extensive market network not only facilitates the sale of our crops but also serves as a strategic approach to minimize the risk of losses inherent in the perishable nature of our produce.



Part of first harvest being delivered to clients, 2023

## e. Bookkeeping

As a component of this initiative, we recognized the significance of equipping local farmers interested in agribusiness with proper accounting skills. Consequently, we conducted a dedicated session for the production team, focusing on the essentials of bookkeeping and record-keeping as indispensable elements for the successful operation of an agrienterprise.

Within a span of 1.5 weeks, the farm achieved sales totaling R3 000. Building on this initial success, we had anticipated a total revenue projection of no less than R30 000 to be realized from the tomato and peppers project. Unfortunately, we lost all our tomatoes to the worms because of too much rains we had in for 2 weeks in the period late January to early February. These rains

rendered our spraying programme ineffective resulting in the worm attacking our produce as shown in the following picture.



The worm that affected the tomatoes at the farm, 2023

## Way Forward

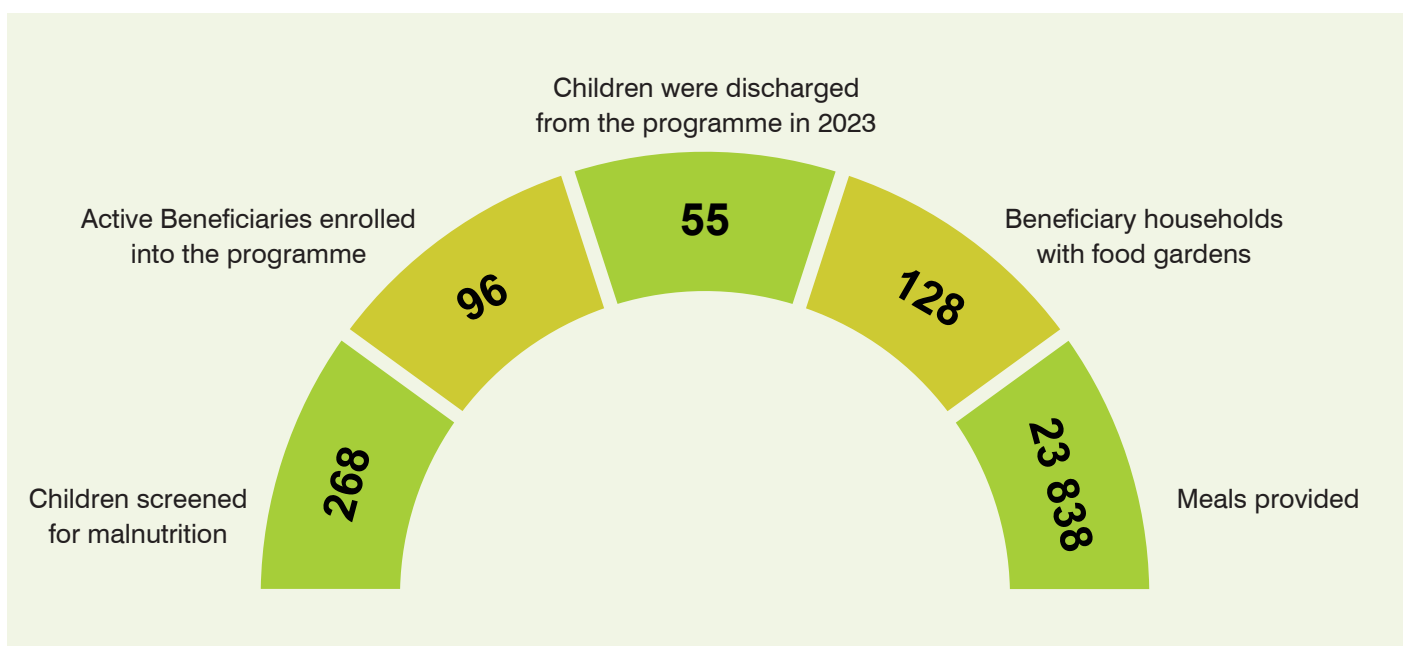
The prosperity of AFAS Farm relies heavily on the determination and enthusiasm of the dedicated production team striving to make this project a success. Identifying and supporting youths equipped with the right skills and a strong desire to succeed in farming is paramount. AFAS Farm serves as a conduit for these individuals to realize their agricultural aspirations. However, we learnt that with proper timing and adequate attention, the farm can be economically viable. With the invaluable financial support from Tjommie towards initiatives focused on food security and economic empowerment, AFAS Farm stands as a beacon of hope for many local youths and women. Through this collaborative effort, we aim to make a lasting and positive impact on their lives, providing a pathway out of hunger and poverty. The continuous support from our donors ensures that AFAS Farm remains a driving force in fostering sustainable change within the community, creating opportunities for growth, empowerment, and transformation.

# NDLOVU NUTRITIONAL UNITS



The Ndlovu Nutritional Units (NNU) programme continue to be one of our core Child Care programmes aimed at improving the nutritional wellbeing of vulnerable children in the Moutse community. The year 2023 saw the programme operating digitally through the ServiceNow

App that has allowed us to improve efficiencies and track progress in real time. The following milestones were reached during the reporting period March 2023 – February 2024:

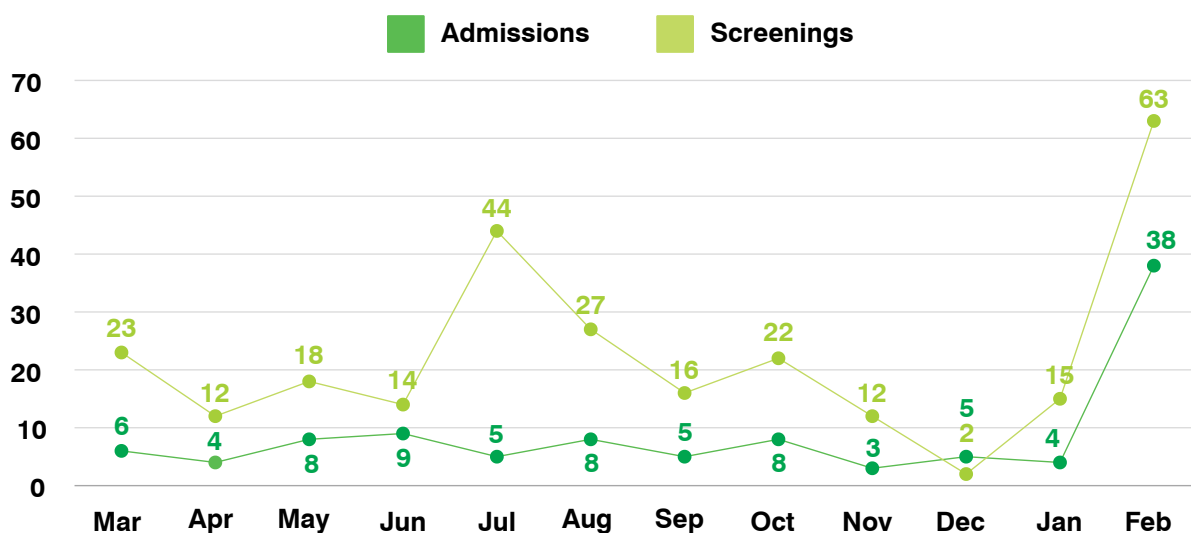




## Programme Impact

Our ongoing initiatives aimed at addressing malnutrition among children in the Moutse area have consistently yielded positive outcomes, significantly altering the lives and overall well-being of children and their families. Throughout the year 2023, we achieved a notable milestone by successfully discharging 55 children from our programme after effectively enhancing their nutritional status through the implementation of the NNU programme. This accomplishment signifies a significant improvement in the health and nutritional levels of these children, thereby contributing to their overall growth and development.

As a direct consequence of our success in improving the nutritional status of these children, there has been a surge in demand for our services. This heightened demand necessitated a sharp increase in our admission numbers, particularly evident in the month of February 2024. As depicted in the accompanying graph, this expansion in admissions underscores our commitment to extending our reach and impact within the community, ensuring that we can continue to positively influence the lives of more individuals in need.



This surge in admissions reflected in the graph for February 2024 not only reflects the effectiveness of our interventions but also highlights the pressing need for continued support and intervention in addressing malnutrition among children in the Moutse area. By

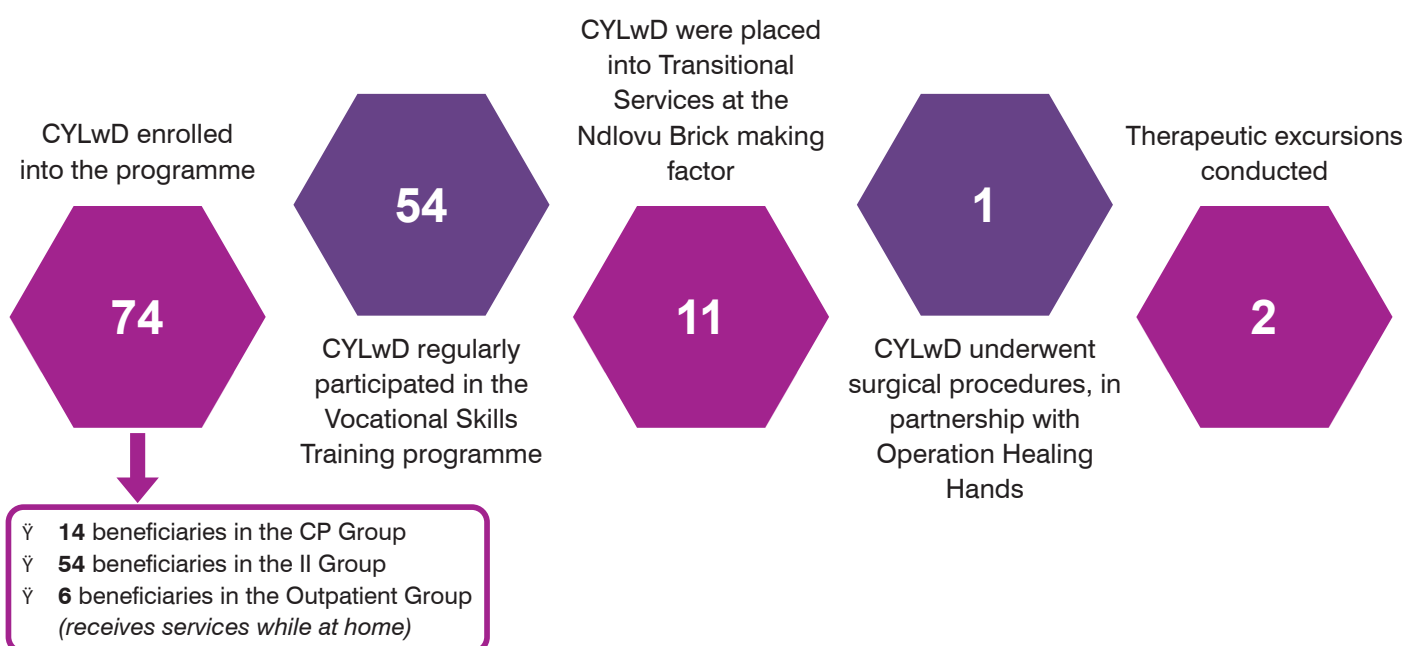
scaling up our efforts and accommodating more children in our programme, we are better positioned to address the pervasive issue of malnutrition and work towards improving the health and well-being of vulnerable children and families in the community.

# COMMUNITY DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME



The Ndlovu Disability Programme is dedicated to fostering the inclusion and well-being of Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD). Despite the challenges faced in 2023, the programme continued to make significant strides. Notably, 11 CYLwD successfully transitioned from the programme to employment at the Brick-making factory through the Transitional Services, which provide supported employment and personalised home-based care services for CYLwD. In addition to these services, the programme offers Vocational Skills Training and therapeutic excursions, creating unique opportunities for CYLwD to engage in enjoyable, recreational, social, and therapeutic activities. The programme's impact extends

beyond the 54 intellectually impaired and 14 physically impaired beneficiaries, reaching out to the entire Moutse area community. This is exemplified in the inspiring story of Thakgalo Mapenderi, who has benefited from occupational therapy services, including outpatient care, home visits, school visits, and assistance with necessary appointments. The Ndlovu Disability Programme's collaboration with Witwatersrand University is instrumental in providing training opportunities for Occupational Therapy students. This collaboration prepares students to contribute their skills and knowledge to support other underserved rural communities across the country.



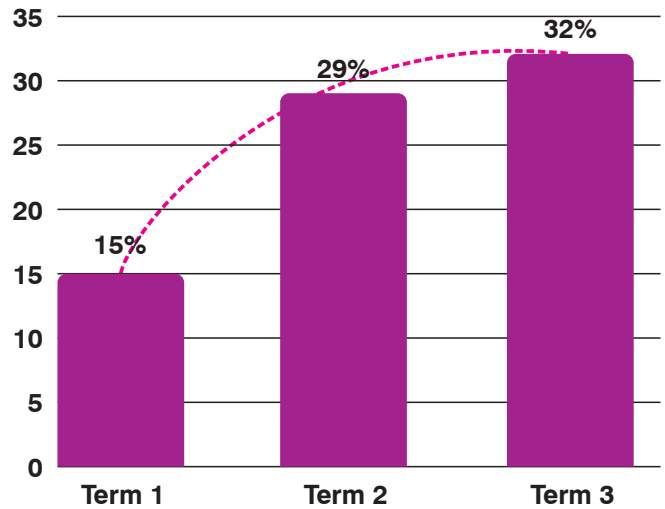


## Rehabilitation Impact

Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD) are primarily enrolled in our programme to receive assistance from our Occupational Therapists and Community Health Care Workers (CHWs) through a structured rehabilitation programme, either as inpatients at our centre or as outpatients at home. Those with severe physical disabilities, such as Cerebral Palsy (CP), undergo a series of therapy sessions that can extend up to four years while enrolled in the programme. Throughout this period, their caregivers participate in caregiving workshops to ensure they can maintain appropriate care levels for the patients at home, even after discharge from the programme. During the reporting period, significant improvement was observed in the patients' level of functionality, with a notable increase of 17 percentage points from 15% in Term 1 to 32% in Term 3. This progress is assessed based on the development of communication, self-care,

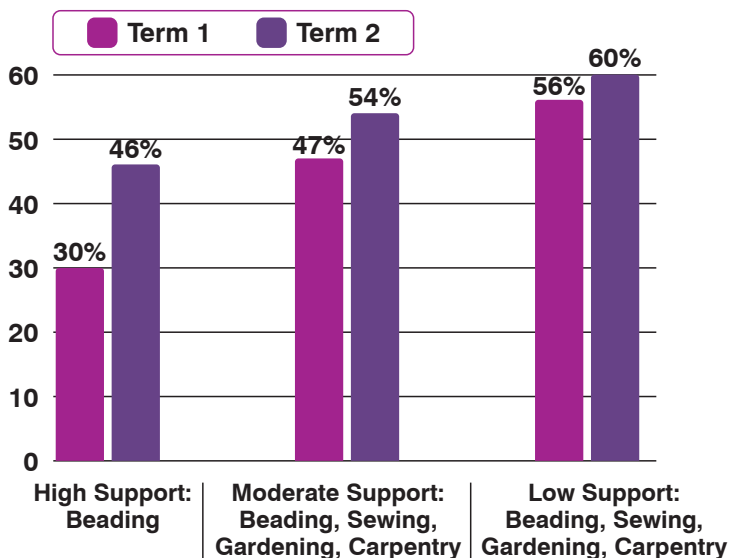
mobility, emotional well-being, play, and participation capabilities of the patients.

### CPs Progress Tracker, 2023



In regard to the intellectually impaired group, we categorize individuals based on the level of support needed, as determined by assessments conducted by Occupational Therapists. This group undergoes a series of vocational training sessions aimed at preparing them for the transition upon exiting the programme. Remarkable progress was observed across all groups during the assessments as shown in the following graph. We are delighted to announce that eleven patients from this group have been certified to begin their transitional development at the Ndlovu brick-making factory.

### Intellectually Impaired Progress Tracker, 2023



## Therapeutic Excursions

Participating in therapeutic excursions presents a distinctive chance for CYLwD to take part in outdoor and recreational activities, which are typically limited for them. These outings enable beneficiaries to partake in enjoyable, social, and therapeutic experiences beyond their usual surroundings. Consequently, this fosters mental and physical well-being by diminishing feelings of isolation and fostering the development of social skills. These advantages are especially critical for children and youth with severe physical disabilities, as they are often susceptible to low self-esteem. Moreover, excursions provide an opportunity for caregivers to temporarily step away from their regular responsibilities and connect with others who share similar experiences. This fosters mutual

support and can assist in easing the emotional and physical burdens that caregivers commonly face.

On September 14, 2023, a contingent of 48 Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD) embarked on an enriching excursion to De Villas Resort, located just outside Groblersdal. The outing provided them with a diverse range of activities, including invigorating swims and adventurous slides. Later, on September 27, 2023, another group consisting of 11 CYLwD, accompanied by a caregiver each, journeyed to the same destination—De Villas Resort. During this visit, all participants actively engaged in various water-based activities. These experiences proved instrumental in enhancing their motor skills, balance, coordination, and overall physical fitness.



11 CYLwD that attended De Villas on September 27, 2023



Food packets for the CYLwD and their caregivers

In general, these outings offer Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD) a chance to participate in activities that might otherwise be inaccessible to them. They contribute to the enhancement of physical and mental well-being, the development of social skills, and provide relief for caregivers.

## Fun Walk Event for National Disability Day

On December 1, 2023, a powerful collaboration unfolded as Epilepsy SA joined forces with the Ndlovu Disability Centre for an impactful Fun Walk, guided by the theme 'Consolidate and Accelerate Rights of Persons with Disabilities into the Future'. The day commenced with a vibrant early morning, witnessing the spirited participation of both dedicated staff members and enthusiastic beneficiaries. The procession weaved through the heart of Moutse, culminating at Epilepsy SA. The event provided a platform for beneficiaries to

partake in engaging activities, creating an atmosphere of unity and universality for Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD). The occasion also served as a forum for meaningful discussions, allowing staff members to share their sentiments about working with CYLwD and the profound impact it has on them. The day not only celebrated unity and inclusion but also highlighted the ongoing journey to consolidate and propel the rights of individuals with disabilities into the future.



## Occupational Therapist Internship

The Ndlovu Disability Programme has established a thriving collaboration with Witwatersrand University, dedicated to imparting training to Occupational Therapy students in Community-Based Rehabilitation. Since its inception in February 2021, this partnership has facilitated an intensive seven-week training programme at our Disability Programme, offering students invaluable hands-on experience in delivering services to Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD). This initiative not only brings significant benefits to the rural community of Moutse but also equips therapists with the necessary skills to serve other underserved rural areas across

the nation where healthcare access is limited, and transportation costs pose a challenge.

As of now, twelve (12) students have successfully completed this internship, emerging as qualified occupational therapists. This collaboration has proven to be an exceptional avenue for students to gain practical experience in a community setting while simultaneously providing essential support to children and youth facing disabilities. We take immense pride in contributing to the development of future occupational therapists who will play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for CYLwD in underserved rural communities.

## Impact story

Thakgalo Mapenderi, a resilient 10-year and 9-month-old boy hailing from Phooko, came under the care of Ndlovu Disability Centre due to Fibular Hemimelia, a rare congenital deformity affecting approximately 1 in 40,000 children. Diagnosed soon after his birth on April 11, 2013, Thakgalo experienced the absence of the fibula bone in his lower leg, leading to the crucial decision of amputation by an orthopedic surgeon in 2017. Born into a family of seven children, Thakgalo is the fifth child, raised by a single mother. He has been an outpatient beneficiary of the disability centre, actively engaging in occupational therapy services for approximately six years. Post-amputation, Thakgalo consistently received support from both occupational therapists and social workers. During this period, he relied on a walking aid for mobility until 2019 when, thanks to Ndlovu Care Group's assistance, he acquired a prosthetic limb, which served him well until 2023. Unfortunately, the prosthetic limb suffered extensive damage, affecting both his physical and mental well-being. The inability to afford a replacement left Thakgalo unable to participate in activities he loved.

The damaged prosthetic limb, coupled with Thakgalo's growth, presented challenges in his daily life, particularly in commuting to school independently. Dependent on his mother for carrying his backpack due to the limitations imposed by crutches, Thakgalo faced a loss of autonomy. Navigating between classes became a challenging task within his educational environment.

The Ndlovu Disability Centre's occupational therapist reached out to Jumping Kids, an organization dedicated to funding and providing access to prosthetic equipment, education, and sports for children with lower limb amputations in disadvantaged communities. On November 30, 2023, Thakgalo experienced a transformative consultation at Jumping Kids, where he was fitted with a brand-new prosthetic leg. The collaboration between Jumping Kids and the Disability Programme not only secured funding for Thakgalo's prosthesis but also emphasized the importance of continued performance in school, social engagement, and participation in sports – ensuring a holistic approach to his well-being.



Thakgalo with his new prosthetic leg.



Thakgalo running with his new prosthetic leg.

The success story of Thakgalo Mapenderi, now equipped with a new prosthetic limb, attests to the positive impact of the Disability Programme. It exemplifies the programme's commitment to enabling Children and Youth Living with Disabilities (CYLwD) to realize their full potential and excel in various aspects of their lives. Thakgalo's newfound independence and joy serve as a testament to the transformative effects of integrated support programmes for vulnerable individuals.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The Ndlovu Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme continues to make significant progress in Moutse community. In 2023, 269 children were enrolled in the ECD programme. The programme's advocacy strategy for the inclusion of 3 children living with disabilities in mainstream ECD education continues as a major accomplishment. The ECD had the following outlook in 2023 as follows:

ECD Centre	Grade RR	Toddlers	Total
Bloempoot	46	24	70
Marelato	14	25	39
Ntwane	54	19	73
Phooko	59	28	87
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>269</b>

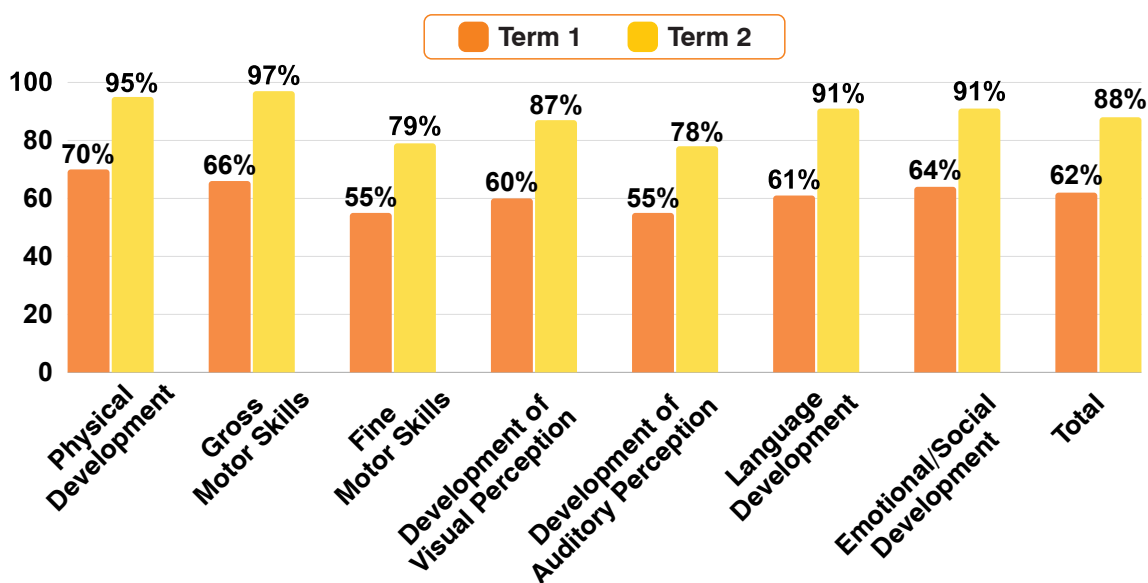


## Programme Developmental Milestone Achievements

The Ndlovu Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres implement a comprehensive approach to assess developmental milestones, conducting evaluations twice annually, specifically at mid-year and year-end. These assessments utilize the innovative Class Out of the Box methodology, which enables a holistic evaluation of children's progress across nine key developmental areas. The results from these assessments are indicative

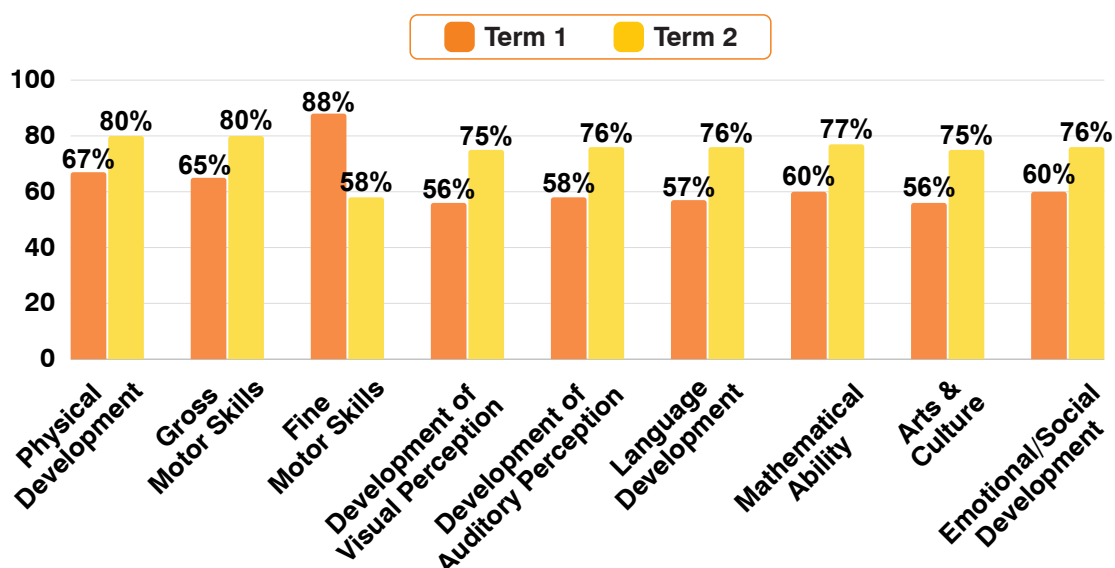
of significant strides made by the children in their developmental journey. At the conclusion of the year, the data revealed noteworthy achievements, with children aged 1-3 years attaining an impressive overall average score of 88%. Similarly, children in the 4-5 age group demonstrated commendable progress, achieving an average score of 75%.

### Developmental Milestones in 1-3 year olds, ECD 2023 Class



The assessment results show an impressive developmental improvement among the children across all the early childhood categories. The high average scores attained by the children serve as a testament to the dedication and commitment of the educators and staff at Ndlovu ECD Centres. Through their unwavering efforts and nurturing environment, they create conducive learning spaces where children can thrive and reach their developmental milestones with confidence.

### Developmental Milestones in 4-5 year olds, ECD 2023 Class



These outcomes underscore the effectiveness of the Ndlovu ECD Centres' approach in fostering holistic development among young learners. By focusing on various developmental domains such as cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and linguistic skills, the centres ensure a well-rounded educational experience for each child. Moreover, the utilization of the Class Out of the Box methodology allows educators to tailor interventions and support strategies according to individual needs, thereby maximizing each child's potential.

Moving forward, these assessment results provide valuable insights for ongoing improvement and refinement of the ECD curriculum and teaching practices. By continuously monitoring progress and adapting interventions as necessary, the centres can further enhance the quality of education and support provided to young learners, ensuring that they are well prepared for future academic success and overall well-being.

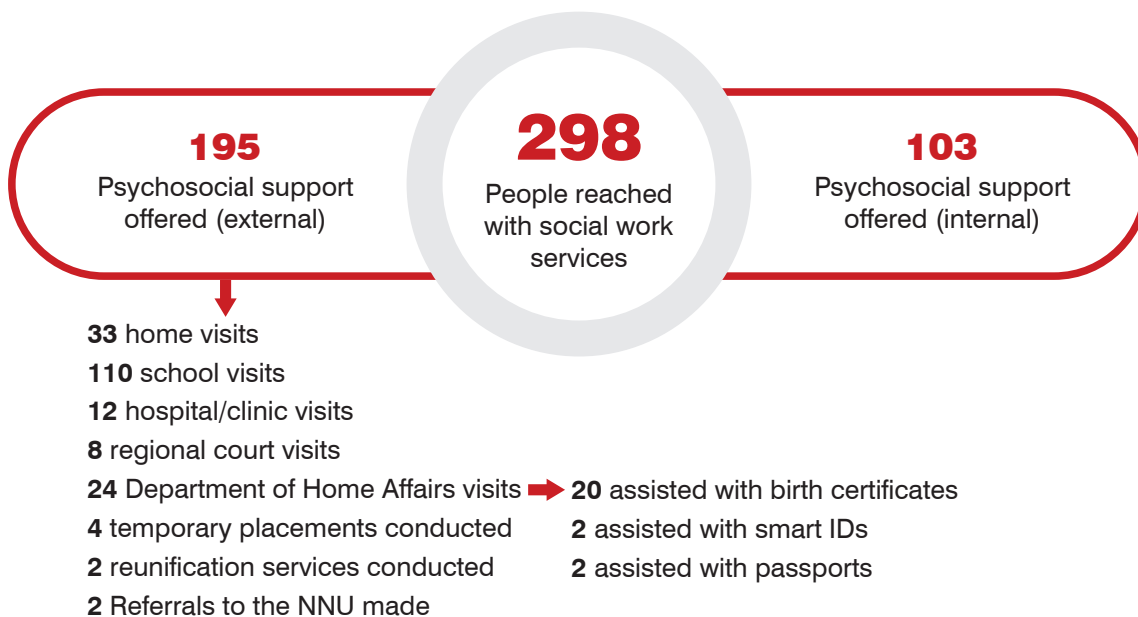
## SOCIAL WORK SERVICES



Ndlovu's Social Work Services aim to deliver social care, support, and protection to vulnerable groups by promoting family and community-based response mechanisms and providing social welfare services. Orphaned & Vulnerable Children (OVC), individuals living with disabilities, and older persons often face vulnerabilities and poverty, leaving them unable to realize their full potential. NCG works to enhance social care, support, and protection by ensuring the provision of basic needs such as clean water, food, shelter, healthcare, and safety. The programme specifically addresses the challenges faced by Child Headed Households (CHHs), offering life

support and social skills assistance to empower them in overcoming the difficulties of growing up without parental guidance or family support. Furthermore, Ndlovu's Social Workers assist CHHs/OVC in obtaining relevant legal identity (ID) documents and registrations for specific grants, education, and other essential services. The goal is to provide comprehensive support that addresses both immediate needs and facilitates long-term empowerment for vulnerable individuals and households. In 2023, our Social Work Services managed to attain the following milestones:





## Impact Story

### The Radebe OVC Family

Ms. Tereira Radebe sought social work services after her sister's passing on February 12, 2015. Her sister's demise, attributed to natural causes, left behind two children: Prince Paulos Radebe, aged 12 and in grade 4, and Tshogfatso Radebe, aged 11 and in grade 3. Both children attend Njinga Primary School and are currently under the care and protection of Ms. Tereira Radebe.



1. Ms. Tereira Radebe, a young single mother of two, is currently residing with her late sister's children in RDP housing in Dennilton.
2. Initially, the case of the two children was reported to the Department of Social Development in Sempumpuru when Ms. Radebe expressed her desire to be assessed for foster care placement. However, her foster care application could not be processed in 2015 due to delays, prompting her to seek assistance from Ndlovu Care Group (NCG). DSD social workers informed Ms. Radebe that the department was still searching for the biological father of both children, as per foster care application procedure. Ms. Radebe later revealed to the NCG social worker that the children's biological father could not be located as he is a foreigner, fearing to disclose this to the DSD case managing social worker to avoid jeopardizing the application process.

3. Following intervention by the NCG social worker, the foster care application was successful, and the two children were placed under foster care with Ms. Tereira Radebe. Both children are now settled with no issues of concern.
4. Despite grappling with mental health issues stemming from the loss of both her mother and sister to death, as well as her partner being an undocumented immigrant from Mozambique and the father of her two children, Ms. Tereira manages to cope with the situation thanks to ongoing psychosocial support provided by the social worker to her and her entire family.
5. Ms. Tereira can also access other basic services within the organization, including Nutritional Needs Unit (NNU) services for her eldest six-year-old daughter, who was born prematurely and experienced malnutrition. The child received care at Phooko NNU and was discharged from the programme in 2022. The family also benefits from food hampers and the E-Pap distribution programme to alleviate poverty, as their only means of survival is through the foster care grant and the child support grant received from the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).
6. The two minor children continue to be under supervision and temporary care of their maternal aunt, and they appear to be settled despite the loss of their loved ones (their mother, maternal grandmother, and their father, who disappeared immediately after their mother's death).

As a proactive measure to enhance the well-being and development of the two boys under her care, the foster mother is exploring the option of enrolling them in the after-school programme offered by our ASP Ndlovu Care Programme. This programme offers a holistic approach to education and personal growth, providing a safe and nurturing environment where children can engage in enriching activities beyond regular school hours. Therefore, enrolling the boys in the after-school programme at our ASP Ndlovu Care Programme aligns with our commitment to providing comprehensive support and opportunities for the holistic development of children in our care. By investing in their education, well-being, and personal growth, we aim to empower them to thrive and reach their full potential.

## **The Community of Practice (CoP) for Social Strengthening Programme**

In collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, Ndlovu Social Work Services embarked on a collaborative pilot project Moutse valley named the Community of Practice (CoP) for Social Strengthening Programme. The CoP for Social Systems Strengthening is a collaborative practice-based learning initiative established in 2020 that aims to enhance the overall wellbeing of children by strengthening the social systems that surround them. This collaborative initiative is informed by previous research that highlights the importance of integrated services for enhancing child wellbeing. The CoP initiative aims to address service provision gaps for young children by employing a multi-systemic approach to child well-being that locates the child in the wider context of their family,

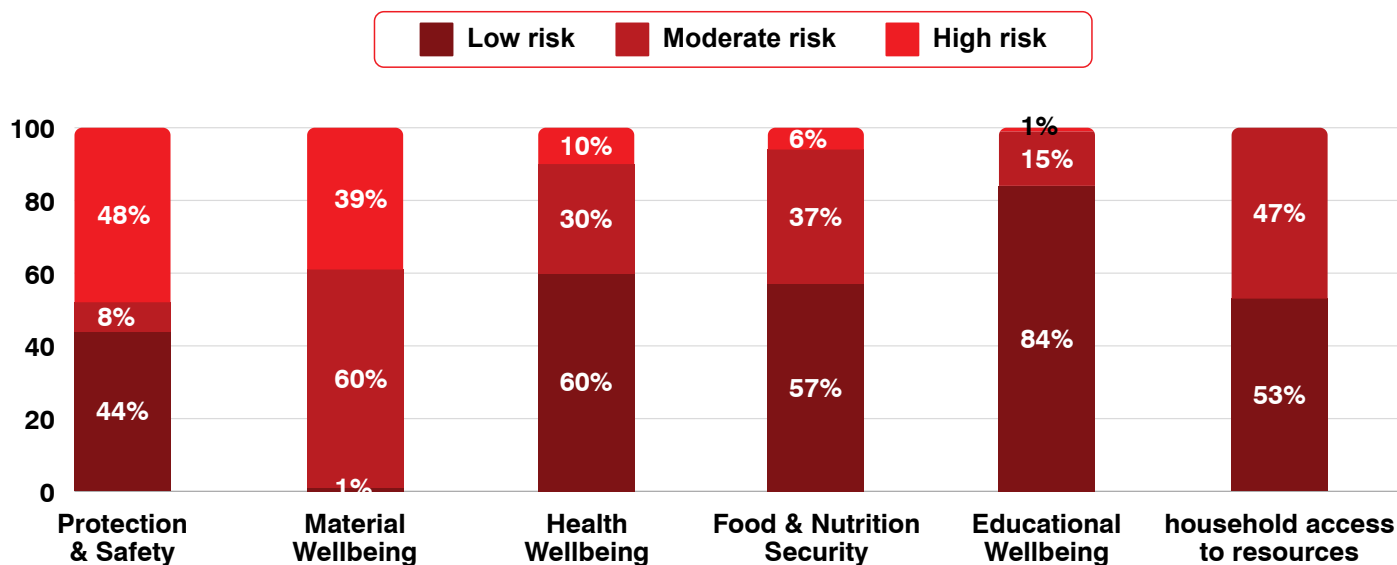
school and community.

This pilot project focused on children in the foundation phase of schooling, from Grade R to Grade 3. The target group is considered a critical developmental period that often lacks comprehensive and coordinated service provision, making it crucial to address the gaps in support and care during this stage. To effectively address this gap in coordination, the pilot study established: (a) an Advisory Level CoP (ALCoP) to guide the study and develop an assessment tool to track the wellbeing of the child participants in the study, and (b) Local Level CoPs (LLCoPs) to guide the implementation of the approach at the schools.



# Main Findings

## Risk profiles per social domain



The key goal of this assessment was to identify children at high, moderate, and low risk. A ‘high-risk’ classification based on this assessment indicates a need for immediate referral. Therefore, the main conclusions were as follows:

- Children were at highest risk (48%) in the protection and safety domain and in the material (financial) wellbeing domain. These are children for whom there was a ‘yes’ response on whether the child had been a victim of abuse or violence, has seen people fighting in the home and community, or if the child gets along better with adults than with other children.
- Approximately 39% of children were at high risk due to limited financial or material resources. This category covered those children with caregivers who had no access to other sources of income aside from social grants or if they struggled to pay off their debts.

## Way Forward

Our collaboration with the University of Johannesburg presented an invaluable opportunity for our Social Work Services to delve into the grassroots-level social needs of the community. Through a comprehensive assessment of the wellbeing of young children in Moutse during this pilot program, we established a robust foundation for informing and customizing the development of targeted interventions, with a focus on children at high or moderate risk across various domains. The insights gleaned from this pilot initiative shed light on key areas for intervention, guiding our efforts as we endeavour to expand our social

work services.

These findings have provided the long-sought justification for increased resources to support our social work services. Consequently, we urge Tjommie to consider providing additional support in this area. Our intention is to extend the implementation of a community of practice approach, enhancing our school-based support services and care within the rural Moutse valley. Your support in this endeavour would greatly contribute to strengthening our impact and fostering sustainable change within the community.

# AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME



The support from Stichting Wilde Ganzen, facilitated through Tjommie, continues to bolster our efforts in enhancing the educational experience and improving learning outcomes for learners in rural communities of Limpopo, South Africa, through the After-School Programme (ASP). Following the revitalization of the programme in the 2023 academic year, we have implemented a tailored learner support approach and provided comprehensive training to ASP Facilitators to ensure the delivery of effective interventions. Moreover, the programme is dedicated to instilling a culture of reading and a passion for learning among learners, recognizing its pivotal role in their academic and personal development. Additionally, the programme acknowledges the crucial role of parental involvement in supporting learners throughout their academic journey, placing strong relationships with parents at the heart of the programme's success.

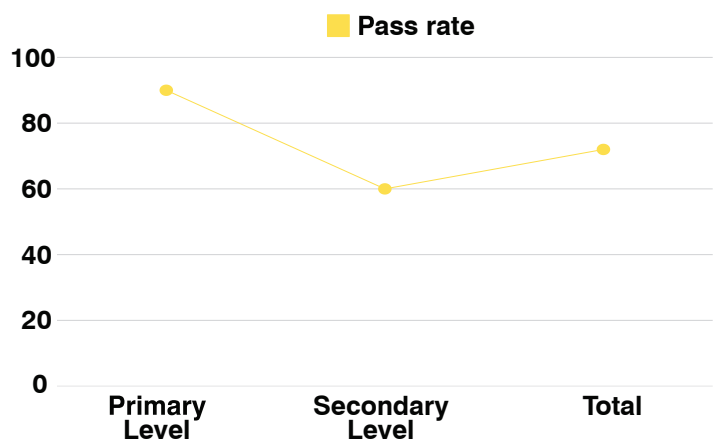
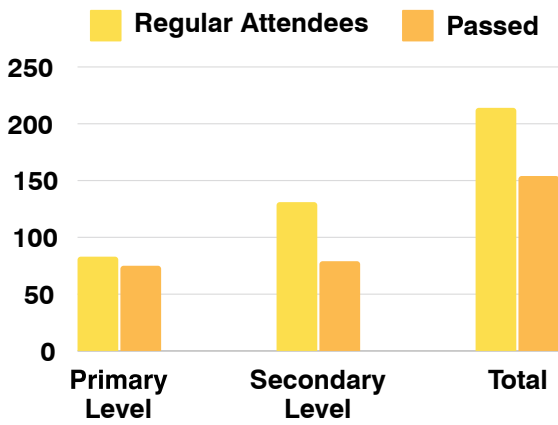
However, after a thorough evaluation of the After School Programme's performance during the 2023 academic

year, the Ndlovu Care Group management has determined the need for significant adjustments to enhance its overall impact. Unfortunately, the programme fell short of meeting the minimum expectations required to effectively improve the academic performance of the participating learners, as evidenced by the tracking of termly results across all supported grades. Our internal performance assessment highlighted key factors contributing to this decision, encompassing both structural aspects and the societal culture of the community we serve. A primary concern was the irregular attendance of learners in the community, which emerged as a critical issue affecting the programme's effectiveness. Therefore, this report aims to provide insights into the impact of the programme on learners' performance in 2023 on the few learners who were a bit consistent throughout the year. Specifically, the report will focus on the results for learners from Grade 4 to Grade 7 at the primary level and Grade 8 to Grade 11 at the secondary level.

## Main Programme Highlights

In 2023, the ASP programme enrolled 423 learners, including 260 primary level and 163 secondary level students. However, only 51% (214) of them consistently attended the programme for at least ten days in 2023. This report focuses on the performance of these 214 regular learners. The overall pass rate for the ASP Class of 2023 was 72%, which remained consistent with the pass rate of 2022. Further details are summarized in the following graph.



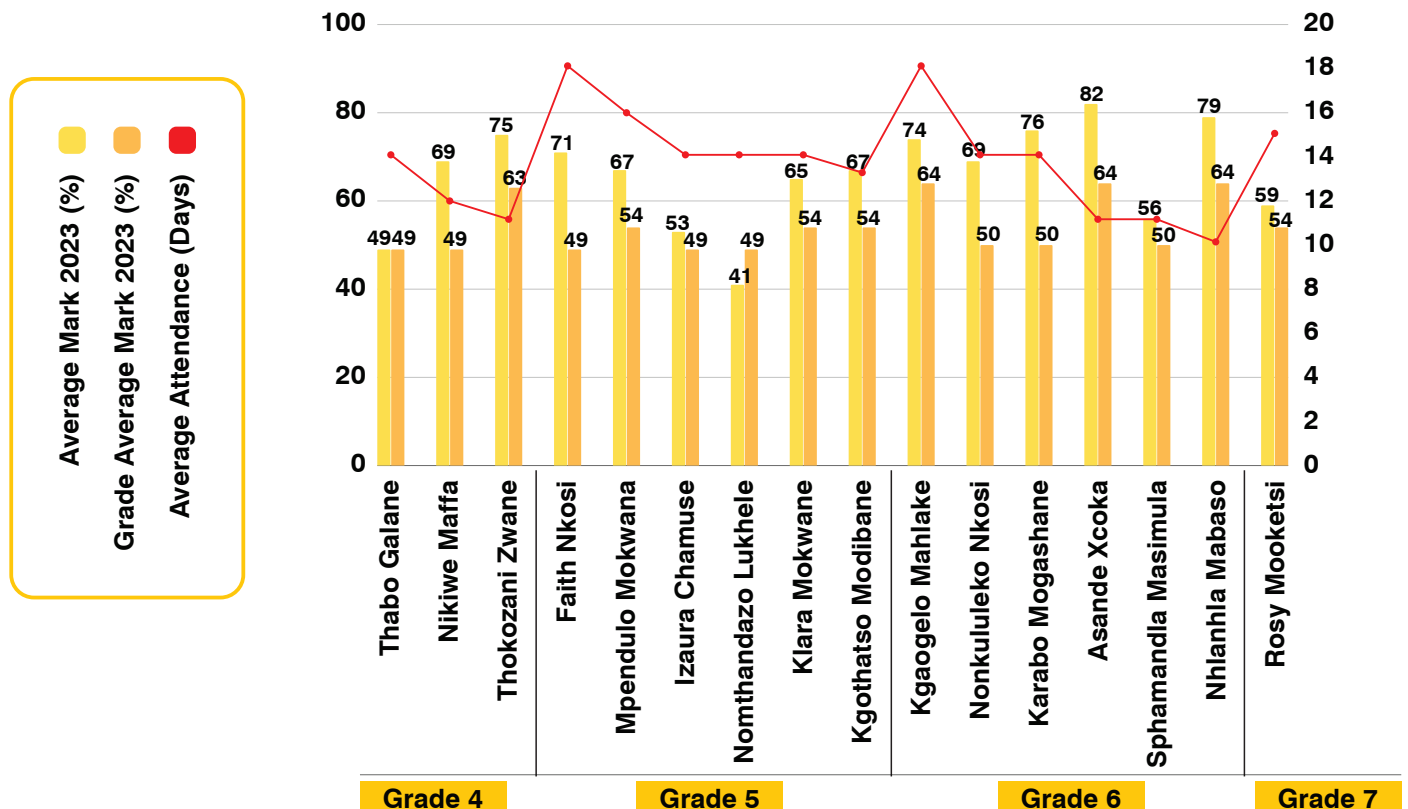


## Asp Learner Performance in Selected Key Subjects

### a. Elandsdoorn Campus

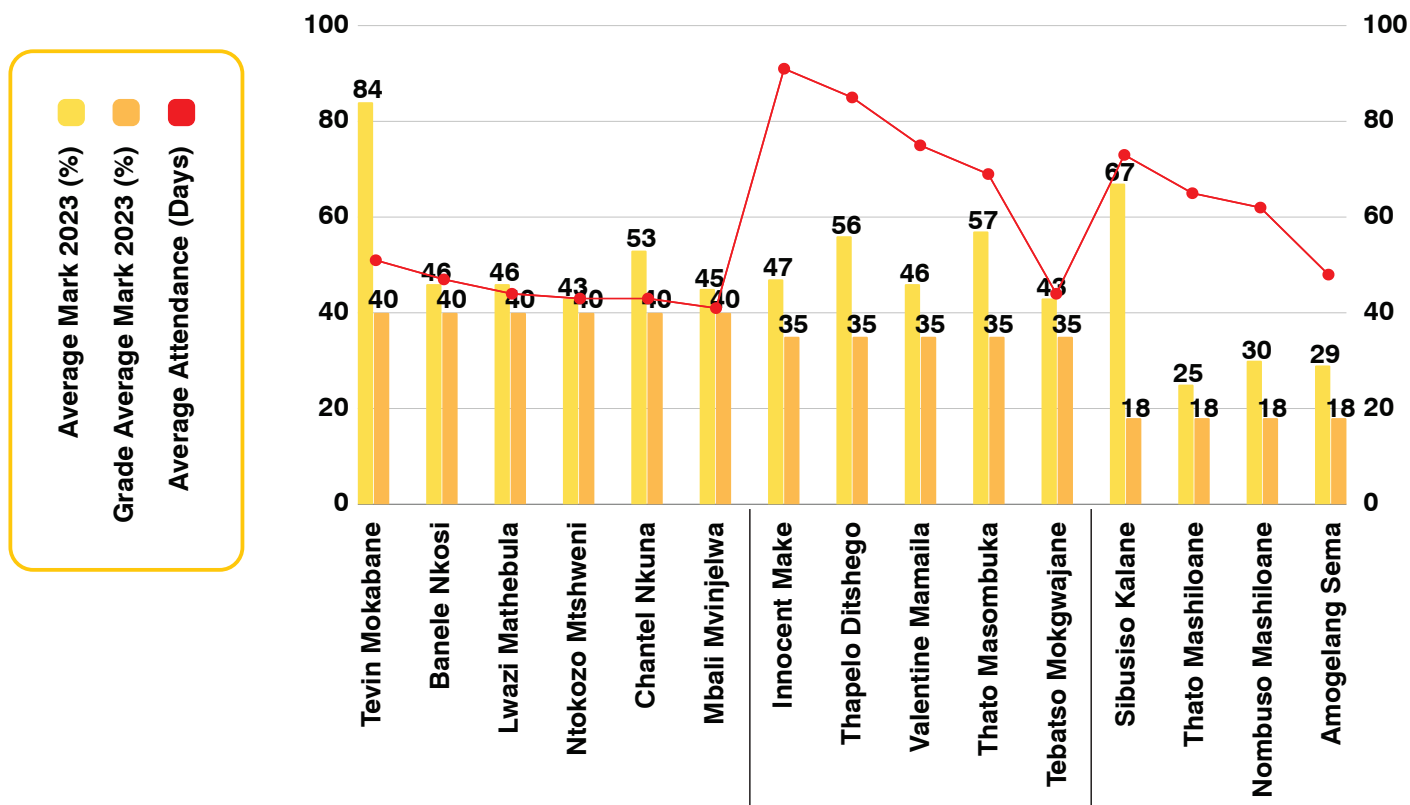
Based on the results of learners who attended the ASP programme for at least 10 days last year, the data indicates a significant impact of the programme on the subjects undertaken by both primary and secondary level students relative to their respective grade averages, as illustrated in the following graphs. Remarkable academic achievements were observed in Mathematics at both primary, with outstanding performances by Asande Xcoka and Nhlanhla Mabaso (Grade 6 learners), and secondary levels, notably by Tevin Makobane. Similarly, learners exhibited exceptional performance in English at the primary level.

#### ASP Mathematics: Elandsdoorn Primary Level Regulars of 2023



The graph above illustrates the commendable performance achieved by learners who participated in Mathematics classes at least once a month throughout the year 2023. These learners demonstrated consistent dedication to their studies as shown by their attendance levels, resulting in notable academic achievements within the Mathematics curriculum.

### ASP Mathematics: Elandsdoorn Secondary Level Regulars of 2023



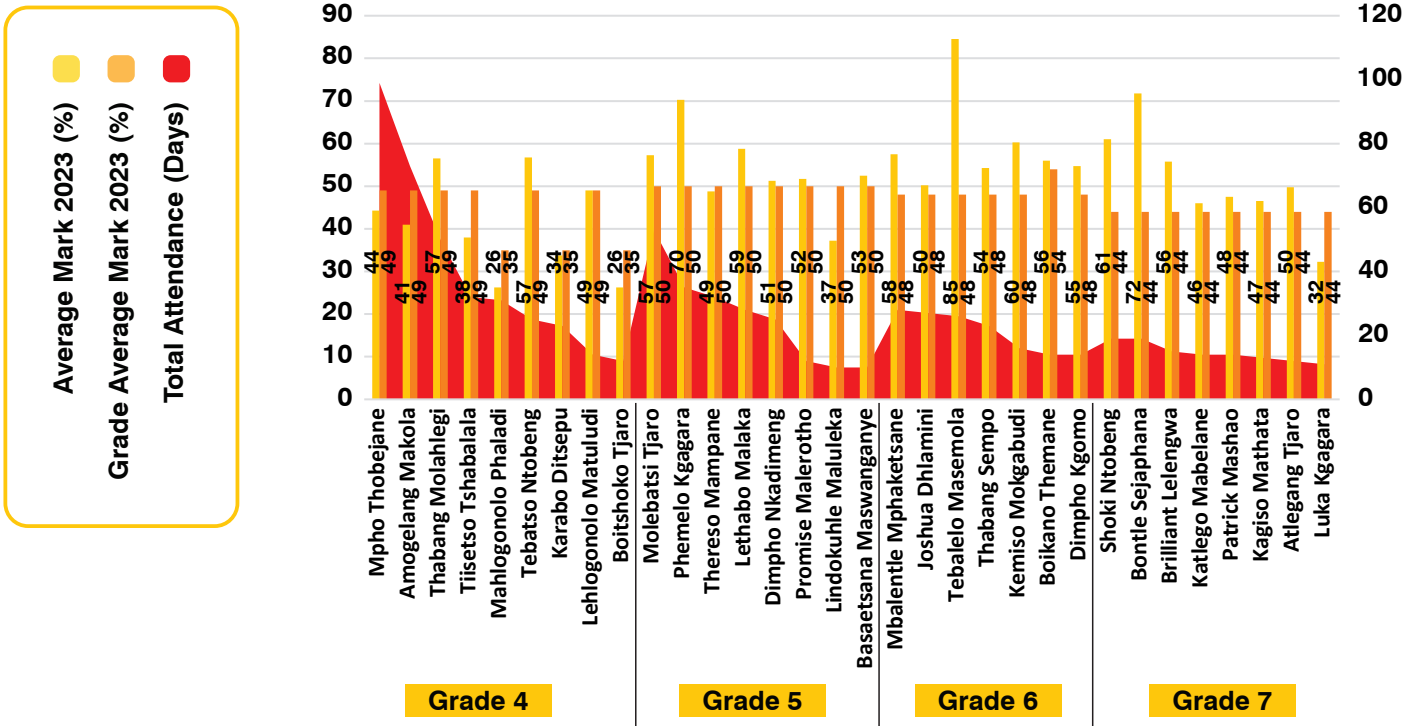
In analysing the performance of secondary level learners in Mathematics classes, it is evident that the overall achievement trend slightly exceeded the grade averages. However, amidst this general trend, there were notable instances of exceptional brilliance demonstrated by individual students. For instance, Tevin, a student in Grade 8, showcased remarkable proficiency and understanding of mathematical concepts, consistently surpassing expectations and achieving outstanding results. Similarly, Sibusiso, a Grade 10 student, exhibited exceptional aptitude and dedication, consistently excelling in Mathematics and setting a high standard for his peers. These exemplary performances serve as shining examples of the potential for academic excellence within the ASP programme, highlighting the impact of both individual effort and effective teaching methodologies in fostering student success.

### b. Bloempoot Campus

There was a higher level of consistency among learners from our Bloempoot Campus compared to those from the Elandsdoorn Campus at the primary level. Additionally, several outstanding students who are part of the ASP deserve recognition. Notably, Tabelo Masemola excelled in English at the primary level. At the secondary level, Boitumelo Dube and Katlego Kgomo demonstrated excellent performance in Life Sciences as highlighted in the graphs below.

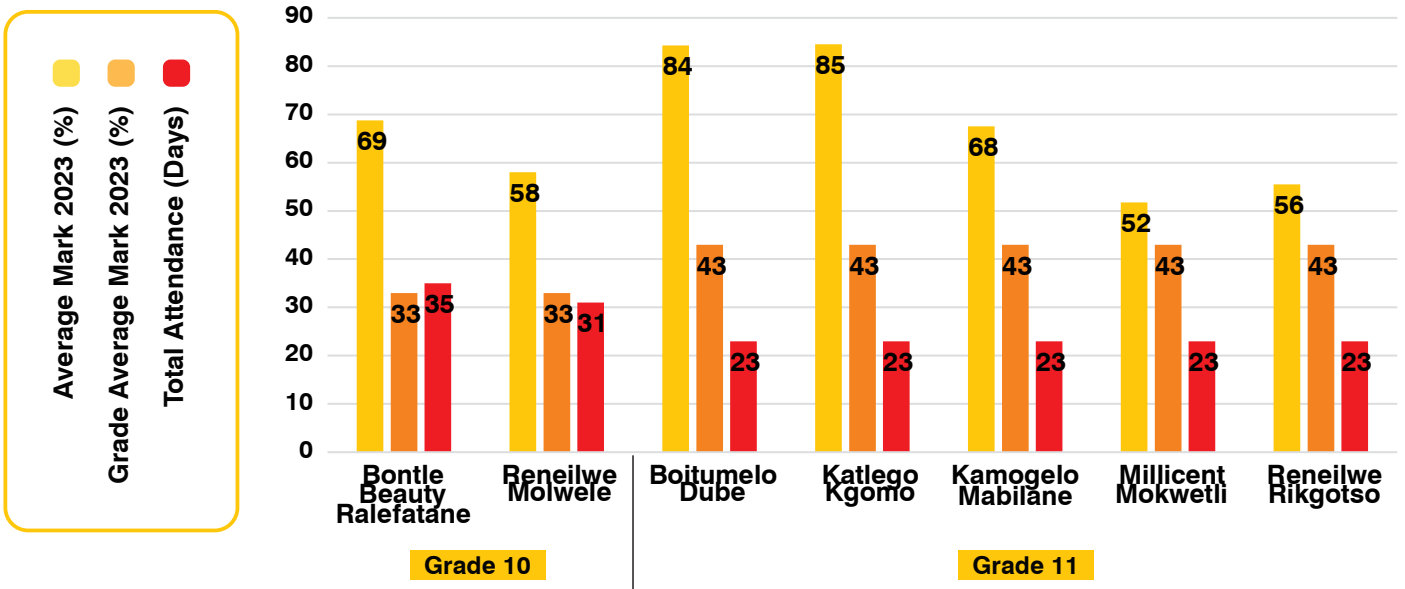


### ASP English: Bloempoot Primary Level Regulars 2023



The performance of Bloempoot learners in English at the primary level was generally commendable, with the majority of students achieving scores above their average grade levels. Particularly outstanding was the excellent marks attained by Tebalelo in Grade 6, who attained 85%.

### ASP Life Sciences: Bloempoot Secondary Level Regulars 2023



The Life Sciences learners exhibited strong performance overall, with notable achievements from Katlego and Boitumelo in Grade 11, who attained excellent marks in this subject.

## Programme Restructuring

Despite a generally satisfactory performance by the regular learners in the programme, it fell short of our expectations in terms of its scale based on the regular attendees. The number of learners who consistently attended the After School Programme in the 2023 academic year was quite

concerning and necessitated the need for a restructuring of the programme to enhance its overall impact on the targeted population. We identified the challenges and instituted relevant changes to address them in the current academic year, as highlighted in the following table:

### ASP challenges and proposed solutions

Identified Challenge(s)	Proposed Solutions
1. Irregular learner attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ÿ Enrol a total of 60 learners, with 10 students per secondary level grade at both Bloempoot and Elandsdoorn campuses.</li> <li>ÿ Implement a mandatory attendance policy, requiring each enrolled learner to attend the After School Programme (ASP) at least 3 days a week. Learners failing to meet this requirement will be released from the programme.</li> <li>ÿ Segregate ASP classes from the safe space provided for learners.</li> </ul>
2. Poor teaching strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ÿ -Successfully recruited a seasoned Programme Coordinator boasting over 20 years of teaching experience.</li> <li>ÿ -Administered competency tests for teachers slated to participate in the programme this year.</li> <li>ÿ -Refined the programme scope to focus solely on essential secondary level subjects, namely: English, Mathematics, Physical Science, and Business Studies/Economics &amp; Management Sciences.</li> <li>ÿ -Implemented a quarterly programme evaluation mechanism to assess effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.</li> </ul>
3. Poor engagements with schools and parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ÿ Foster collaboration primarily with two secondary schools, Ngwato-a-Mphela (Bloempoot) and OR Tambo (Elandsdoorn).</li> <li>ÿ Ensure that the After School Programme (ASP) teaching syllabus complements and aligns with the schools' curriculum.</li> <li>ÿ Conduct quarterly meetings with parents of learners attending these two schools.</li> <li>ÿ Establish and maintain an effective working relationship with community leaders, implementing an efficient feedback system.</li> </ul>

### Way Forward

The Ndlovu ASP programme continues to make significant strides in positively impacting the lives of children in our rural communities. However, we encountered a notable challenge throughout the year concerning learner attendance. Consistency in attendance was lacking, with only a handful of learners consistently participating across all subjects at both the Bloempoot and Elandsdoorn campuses. This inconsistency compromises the quality of our interventions and



underscores the need for greater support from parents and local schools. Therefore, the programme's impact can only be accurately assessed based on the learners who demonstrated consistent attendance.

In response to this challenge, the 2024 academic year will witness a restructuring of the programme, focusing primarily on key subjects at the secondary level (Grade 8 to Grade 11). These subjects include Maths, English, Natural Sciences, Business Studies, and Economics & Management Sciences. To accurately measure the programme's impact, we will primarily concentrate on learners from OR Tambo Secondary School in Elandsdoorn and Ngwato-a-Mphela in Bloempoot. This year, efforts will be intensified to ensure the full cooperation of learners through regular meetings with parents and community leaders to garner their complete support.

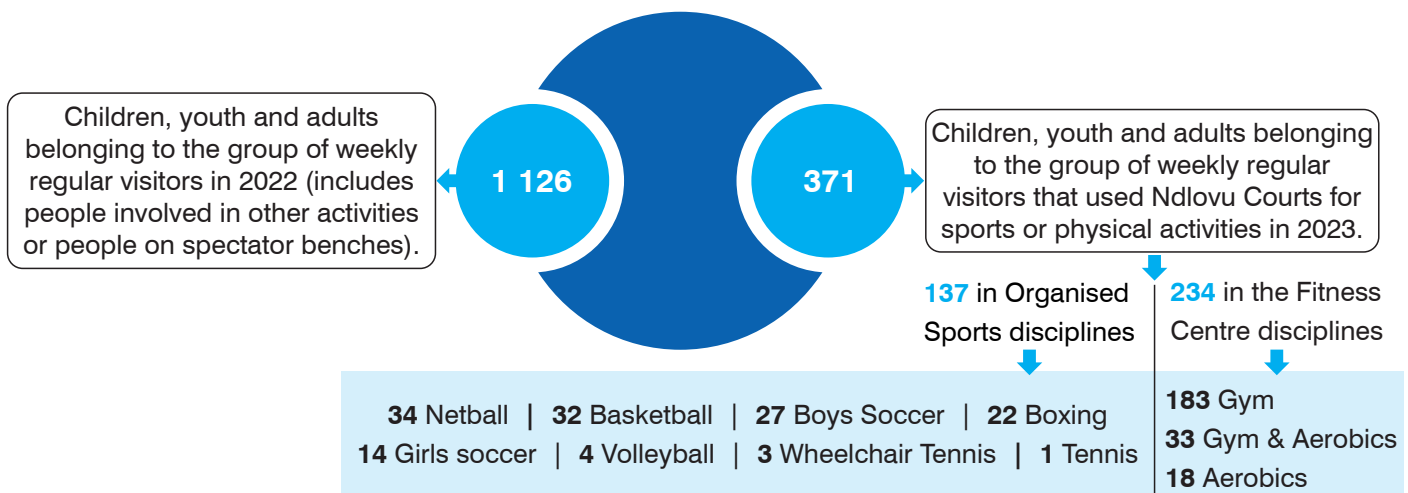
Our target for this year is to enrol a minimum of 60 learners, with at least 10 learners per grade at each of our two campuses. The programme will prioritize admitting learners who can consistently meet the targeted After School Programme (ASP) attendance requirement of at least thrice a week per learner. We believe that this strategic approach will yield positive results by the end of the academic year.

## SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE



Ndlovu Sports Programme offers an avenue for young people and the community to boost their physical and social abilities and stay away from unhealthy behaviours. In 2023, the programme reached 1 497 children, youth, and adults who were weekly regular visitors, with 371

people using the Ndlovu Courts for physical activities in 2023. The programme's success is of Atlegang Tjaro a 14-year old upcoming soccer star who can reach greater heights with proper support and exposure this year.



## Impact Story

### Atlegang, the promising soccer star in the making

During this funding period, a standout highlight was the emergence of Atlegang Tjaro, a promising football talent hailing from the rural village of Bloempoot. Born on March 11, 2010, Atlegang, at 14 years old, resides in Bloempoot within the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, alongside his mother and three siblings. The family relies on child grants as their primary source of income due to his mother’s unemployment. Despite his young age, Atlegang assumes the role of the eldest sibling, taking on responsibilities beyond his years.

Atlegang is a treasured beneficiary of the Ndlovu Sports Ground in Bloempoot, where his passion for football has blossomed. His journey on the football field commenced in 2021 at the Ndlovu court, where he quickly distinguished himself through his skill and unwavering dedication. Not only does Atlegang showcase natural talent, but his commitment to improvement shines through in his exemplary participation during training sessions.

On January 13, 2024, a significant milestone was reached as both Ndlovu soccer teams, representing Elandsdoorn and Bloempoot, were escorted to the SAFA Transnet Football School of Excellence for trials. Amidst stiff competition, Atlegang stood out, earning himself a coveted spot in the semi-finals and returning home with a triumphant spirit, a testament to his skill



and determination. However, on January 20, 2023, despite his best efforts, Atlegang did not secure a place in the final selection. Nonetheless, his journey doesn't end here. With unwavering support from his coach and community, Atlegang remains determined to seize future opportunities, aspiring to realize his dreams on the football field. His remarkable achievement of being chosen from among 600 players during the initial trials stands as a testament to his talent and potential.



The community stands proud of Atlegang’s accomplishments, recognizing his resilience, dedication, and unwavering spirit. As he continues his football journey, we remain steadfast in our support, confident that Atlegang Tjaro’s future holds boundless opportunities for success and fulfilment.

## POWERGIRLS



In our rural communities, there is often a lack of focus on reproductive health, respect, values, and norms. Children in these areas are frequently exposed to threats such as domestic violence, gender-based violence, and substance abuse, rather than being nurtured in a responsible family environment where fundamental values are imparted. Enhancing knowledge and awareness around these crucial issues is essential to mitigate alarming statistics related to rape, teenage pregnancies, education, and the development of Healthy, Responsible, and Empowered South Africans.

More than 35% of young children and youth in rural environments experience broken family situations. In collaboration with MAMAs Alliance, NCG initiated the PowerGirls programme in 2019 to address these challenges. Given that young girls in the community often face gender-based violence, sexual abuse, and various disadvantages, the programme aims to empower them, fostering empowerment, outspokenness, and confidence. In total, 76 girls were enrolled in the programme in 2023 as follows:

PowerGirls Programme	Community Site	Miracle Theatre Site	Total
Langa Group	15	20	35
Naledi Group	23	18	41
Total	38	38	76

Through the PowerGirls initiative, NCG provides support to disadvantaged school-going girls in the community by supplying them with sanitary towels. This effort aims to minimize the stigma associated with the unconventional methods often employed by these girls, methods that can impact their participation in school and other activities. In 2023, the PowerGirls programme successfully distributed 10 900 sanitary towels, making a significant impact on addressing menstrual health challenges and promoting the well-being of these young girls in the community.

## Impact Story

### Surprise, our PowerGirls product now pursuing her tertiary studies

One of our success stories during the funding period was that of Surprise Tjaro. At 18 years old, she hails from a single-parent household, raised by her mother, Jeaneth Tjaro, aged 37. She is the eldest of four girls and stands as the sole family member to have recently completed Matric with a bachelor's degree, granting her a rare and much-needed opportunity to pursue tertiary education at a university, paving the way for her desired career path. Surprise's journey with the Ndlovu Care Group commenced in 2012 when Jeaneth and her children were identified as a family in dire need of housing assistance, as they were reported to be without a home and lacking in necessary care and protection. In response, the organization took charge, constructing a four-roomed brick house for the Tjaro family, comprising two bedrooms, an open-plan kitchen, and dining area. Additionally, bedding essentials such as duvets, linen, blankets, mattresses, dinner sets, and cutlery were provided. While the family relies on solar heating and firewood for daily necessities, the house stands as a sanctuary provided by the organization.

The Tjaro family continues to benefit from a range of services offered by the Ndlovu Child and Youth Care Community Development Programme, including social work services, the After School Programme, and the Power Girls programme. Ongoing support is further extended through provisions of food hampers, E-Pap, school uniforms, and psychosocial assistance. Despite relying on SASSA child support grants for survival, Jeaneth Tjaro supplements the family income by crafting pottery, which she sells within the Dennilton area.



Surprise and her younger sister were enrolled in the Power Girls programme in 2020, with Surprise graduating in 2021 at the age of 15. Throughout her time in the programme, she acquired a multitude of value badges, enhancing her skills in public speaking, etiquette, manners, and participation. Notably, her proficiency in English greatly improved, facilitating her academic progress. With her newfound confidence and academic achievements, Surprise has been accepted to study a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Johannesburg, eagerly anticipating the opportunity to immerse herself in a new environment and collaborate with peers on her educational journey.



## BOXING PROGRAMME



The Ndlovu PowerGirls programme's Boxing initiative, launched in September 2022 in collaboration with Croatian-German Women's Boxing Champion Nikki Adler, aims to promote physical and psychological resilience among vulnerable young girls. Through weekly boxing and self-defence classes, life skills sessions, and counselling services, the initiative equips girls aged 12 to 16 with tools to defend themselves against Gender-based Violence (GBV). With the support of female coaches and virtual guidance from Nikki Adler, the programme empowers girls to develop awareness, safety strategies, and techniques to prevent and escape violence. Our enrolment for boxing in 2023 was a total of 22 young girls who embarked on a transformative journey aimed at nurturing independence and confidence, both physically and mentally. This initiative not only fosters a sense of dignity and security among the participants but also underscores the unwavering commitment of the Ndlovu PowerGirls programme to empower young girls.

## BOYS PROGRAMME

Recognizing the impactful strides made by the PowerGirls programme, we proudly established the Boys Programme in June 2022. This initiative aims to empower young boys hailing from vulnerable households, guiding them on the path to becoming successful and well-rounded individuals. The programme entails a series of weekly facilitator-led life-skill activities, encompassing both individual and group sessions focused on diverse topics. These sessions include mentoring, discussions on social issues such as gender-based violence, personal development, and mental health, as well as opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences.

Since its inception, the Boys Programme has successfully enrolled 41 boys aged between 9 and 12 years old. Remarkably, we have observed positive transformations in their attitudes and behaviours, indicative of the programme's efficacy in nurturing holistic development. By targeting the boy child, we aspire to catalyze a ripple effect that extends beyond individual beneficiaries, positively impacting the broader community.



This initiative underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering a gender-equitable society where both boys and girls are empowered to thrive and realize their full potential. Through dedicated efforts and inclusive programmes, we strive to cultivate a generation of young men who embody values of respect, empathy, and resilience, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and prosperity of our community.



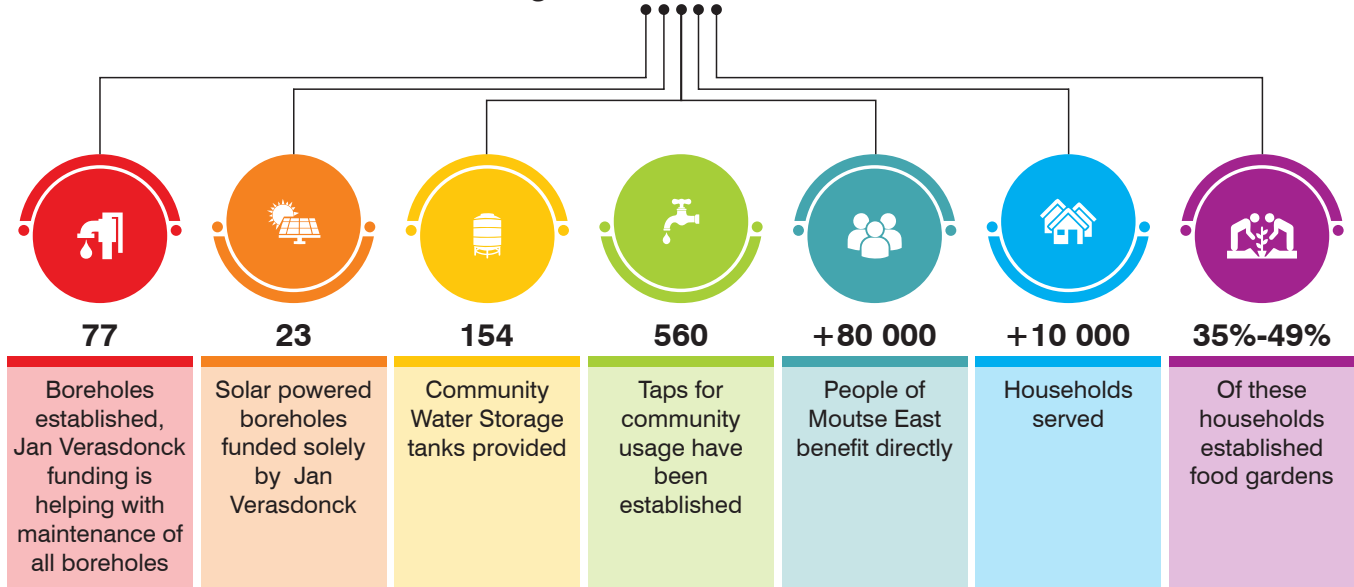
## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE



In response to the enduring water challenges faced by the Moutse community, the Ndlovu Care Group (NCG) took action by establishing a network of boreholes to provide clean and safe water. We currently have a total of 77 strategically located boreholes serving the community. Each borehole is equipped with two 5 000-liter storage tanks, a pump, and multiple taps for simultaneous access, ensuring efficient distribution. Out of this total, 23 are solar-powered boreholes. These boreholes have had a profound impact, benefiting over 80 000 people. This investment not only improves water access for household use but also enhances livelihoods, as evidenced by the proliferation of home food gardens and improved food security. Currently, more than 3000 food gardens are being irrigated from our boreholes, positively impacting nutrition and food security in communities. Looking ahead, NCG's focus is on borehole maintenance and strengthening local management to ensure the sustained provision of clean water. Additionally, 154 water tanks and 560 community taps have been installed, further improving water and sanitation access in the area. These initiatives underscore NCG's commitment to addressing the critical water needs of the Moutse community and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Thanks to the solar-powered boreholes, we have been able to enhance sustainability and reduce environmental impact. Solar energy, harnessed from the sun, has proven instrumental in generating heat, initiating chemical reactions, and producing electricity. This approach has not only facilitated significant savings on electricity costs for the community but has also alleviated the impact of load shedding, which currently plagues the South African economy. Load shedding, a prevalent issue in South Africa, disrupts daily life, increasing vulnerability to food spoilage, extreme temperatures, and other hazards. While all households are affected, low-income households, already the most vulnerable, endure the most of these disruptions. The diverse nature of households in South Africa, influenced by factors such as income, behaviour, and preferences, means that they experience load shedding differently. Having access to a solar-powered borehole is a distinct advantage for the rural, underserved community of Moutse, providing a reliable and sustainable source of water despite the challenges posed by load shedding.

## Programme Achievements



In conclusion, the invaluable assistance offered by Jan Verasdonck has greatly amplified the effectiveness of Ndlovu Care Group's WASH programme within marginalized communities. Thanks to the generous contributions towards borehole installations, numerous individuals now enjoy access to clean and safe water, leading to enhanced health, livelihoods, and overall well-being. The favourable outcomes resulting from this collaboration highlight the transformative influence of philanthropy in addressing urgent social issues. As we ponder the accomplishments facilitated by Tjommie's generosity, we are reminded of

the profound impact achievable when individuals unite to support initiatives aimed at uplifting communities in need. Looking ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to sustaining and broadening these achievements, ensuring that an even greater number of individuals benefit from the vital services provided by the WASH programme. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Tjommie for their steadfast support and dedication to effecting lasting change in the lives of others. Together, we persist in our pursuit of a future where access to clean water is a fundamental entitlement for all.

## CONCLUSION

This report has vividly illuminated the indispensable role that Tjommie consistently plays in bolstering the initiatives of the Ndlovu Care Group Child Care & Youth Development programmes. The enduring support extended by Tjommie is a cornerstone upon which the Ndlovu Care Group stands, enabling us to effect positive change in the lives of numerous vulnerable individuals within the marginalized communities we diligently serve. The gratitude of the Ndlovu Care Group towards Tjommie knows no bounds, as this unwavering support serves as a catalyst for transformation and empowerment across our outreach efforts.

It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge the relentless commitment and hard work exhibited by our dedicated staff members, who tirelessly fulfil their duties in advancing our shared mission. Their passion

and dedication are instrumental in driving forward the objectives of our programmes, ensuring that the impact we make is both tangible and sustainable.

The profound impact of the Child Care & Youth Development programmes is demonstrated by the staggering figure of 20 515 direct beneficiaries reached in the year 2023 alone. In addition, over 80 000 people are also benefiting from the water boreholes in our communities. This remarkable achievement underscores the pivotal role played by Tjommie in our collective endeavour to uplift vulnerable children and empower disadvantaged communities. Through collaborative efforts and steadfast support, Tjommie continues to be a beacon of hope, catalysing positive change and fostering self-sufficiency within the communities we serve.