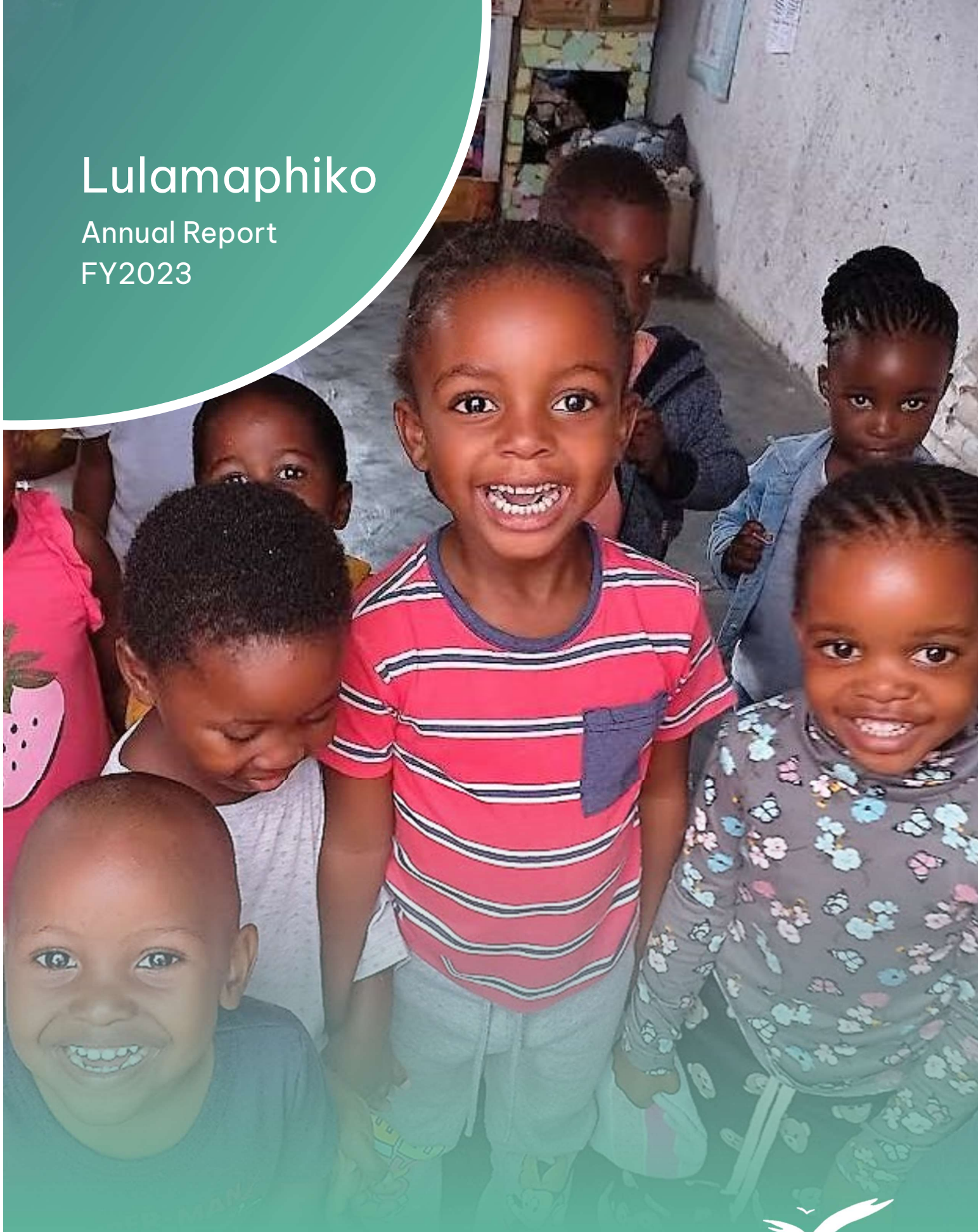


Lulamaphiko

Annual Report
FY2023



Lulamaphiko



New pathways for young children

Note from the Director

Throughout 2022/23 I frequently found myself drawing on a mantra I used during my studies 20 years ago: 'One brick at a time'. This year was characterized by setting up and formalizing our internal systems, developing and implementing new projects, and building a strong team. One brick at a time may sound like an incremental, orderly process, but that is far from the reality of life in an NGO, especially for one such as ours working in a deep rural area, where navigating the multiple challenges of poor infrastructure/service delivery, load-shedding, intermittent internet connectivity, add a layer of complexity to already demanding work. In a nutshell, we had a productive and impactful year! Our team grew, our reach increased, and our results were positive. While we continued to take every opportunity that came our way, this year saw our team establish our long-term vision and direction as an organisation. Together with our board of directors we agreed to increase our presence and projects in uMhlabuyalingana municipality, to bring more balance in terms of effort and impact across the two municipalities that we work in.

Our *Funda Engadini* (Learning in the Garden) programme for 4-to-5 year olds is close to my heart – having studied agriculture, being a committed organic gardener, and observing my son thrive in nature as a young boy – I wanted the children we support through our programmes to have opportunities to spend more time outdoors, learn in and from nature, and experience the wonders of the natural world. We started piloting the programme this year with 15 ECD centres and are beginning to see changes in the way ECD practitioners embrace outdoor learning. Importantly we are seeing children happily participate in activities in the ECD vegetable garden, planting, watering, composting and harvesting crops for their own meals. They are also doing science experiments, reading storybooks with nature themes, using natural resources for numeracy and creative arts, and learning about friendly and not-so-friendly bugs. We believe that building the symbiotic relationship between young children and the natural world from an early age has the potential to instill in them an appreciation of and care for the planet.

Some of our highlights this year:

- Hosting our Board of Directors in uMhlabuyalingana for site visits and a strategic planning session that included team members. This was the first time our board met in person and also met all our team members, so it was a landmark event for all.
- Attending the LITASA 2022 conference in Johannesburg where we presented the results of our Classroom Library Project.
- NECDA KZN Disaster Relief project work in uPhongolo and uMhlabuyalingana, through which we trained 143 ECD practitioners in Self-care and 324 parents to play at home with their young children.
- Hosting the Jim Joel Fund, the Solon Foundation and Do More Foundation.
- Presenting at the Durban Book Dash event where 10 new books were developed.

- Employing an intern through the President's Social Employment Fund, who is supporting ECD gardens in uPhongolo.
- Joining the Real Reform 4 ECD campaign and hosting Tshepo Mantje, their ECD coordinator, in uPhongolo who engaged with local municipal officials, izinduna and ECD principals.
- Engaging with parents through the DO MORE Foundation's *EAT LOVE PLAY TALK* programme and *Read and Play at Home* workshops.

Our team often expresses their gratitude to be doing such interesting and meaningful work, and for opportunities to collaborate with others who are responsible for the wellbeing of young children, advocating on their behalf to bring positive change in their lives.



Lulamaphiko's team has grown to 7 members, plus 3 part-time members. We hold two Team Weeks a year when we reflect, plan, strategise and build our knowledge and capacity to facilitate meaningful change.

Programme Updates

Early Childhood Development:

The DO MORE Foundation contracted us for a second year to manage their *Leave no young child behind* programme in uPhongolo. This is a substantial body of work that has us implementing their Responsive Basket of Services, a nine-pronged strategy to improve the lives of young children through multi-sectoral collaboration. This year we supported over 100 ECD centres with training and resources, upgrades to meet registration requirements, and supplied 35 ECD centres with DoMore porridge. We will continue to do this work in 2023/24.



We support the Siyaphambili Forum Committee and its 60 members in uMhlabuyalingana. We work in 8 wards in this municipality, around Mbazwana and Mseleni, using Impande's CommCare App to do profiling and data collection to guide us when making decisions about training opportunities and resource distribution. This year we trained 20 ECD practitioners who look after babies and toddlers in Wordworks' *Every Word Counts* programme, and distributed hanging libraries donated by Biblioneef for these little ones to start learning to love books. Thanks to the JIM JOEL FUND and GRINDROD FAMILY CENTENARY TRUST who support this work.

Early Literacy:

We continued to mentor Foundation Phase educators to manage classroom libraries, train parents to support their children to read and learn at home, and to implement Wordworks' *Little Stars* programme for Gr Rs. This project is significantly increasing the number of books learners borrow to read at home and the quality of the emergent literacy lessons with pre-school learners. Educators enthusiastically proclaim that their learners are reading more fluently as a result of taking books home on a regular basis. Those who actively promote this system in their classrooms are reaping the benefits of their efforts. Our end of year certification ceremony and celebration was a joyous event with gifts of books provided by Biblioneef. As one educator said: 'The recognition and encouragement that Lulamaphiko gives us is more than what we get at our own school. This motivates us a lot.'



The SOLON FOUNDATION donated 18 000 Book Dash books which we distributed to families, ECD centres and Foundation Phase learners. All children who participate in our projects receive at least 3 Book Dash books a year to keep at home. This very generous contribution to our work ensures children have age appropriate, context specific storybooks that they can personally relate to - it makes the world of difference in our efforts to promote reading and a love of books.

Food gardens:

Since we started supporting Food Gardens in ECD centres in 2021, gardeners are steadily converting to using organic methods to produce fresh vegetables for children's meals. The conditions in northern KZN are severe – extreme heat, very little rain, and very sandy soil in uMhlabuyalingana. With food prices skyrocketing, and climate change



impacting our lives, it is becoming very important to grow our own food. On top of that, ECD centres often do not receive their government subsidy, resulting in children not receiving a daily meal at their ECD centre. We have been encouraged to see soil health improve and production increase at the ECD centres that are using the organic methods we promote. We now have demonstration gardens in uMhlabuyalingana and uPhongolo where gardeners come to learn about how to use these methods at their ECD centres.

In 2022 we developed our *Funda Engadini* programme with Mary James (former director of LETCEE) and in this period ran our first 4 sessions with 15 practitioners and 1100 children aged 4 and 5 years. We have been delighted with the interest and progress that we are seeing. Children are happily using natural resources to learn indoors and participate in lots of fun outdoor activities that engage their 5 senses. *Funda Engadini* provides content for numeracy and early language/literacy, science and creative arts. Children love the *Isimangaliso walks*, when they get to explore the outdoors. What a change from when we first introduced the programme and many didn't want to put their hands in the soil nor get their clothes dirty! When we revise the materials after the pilot this year, we plan to link the Early Learning and Development Areas (ELDAs) with the various activities to deepen ECD practitioners' understanding of what children are learning through the programme.

Reach as at June 2023



Annual Financial Statements FY23

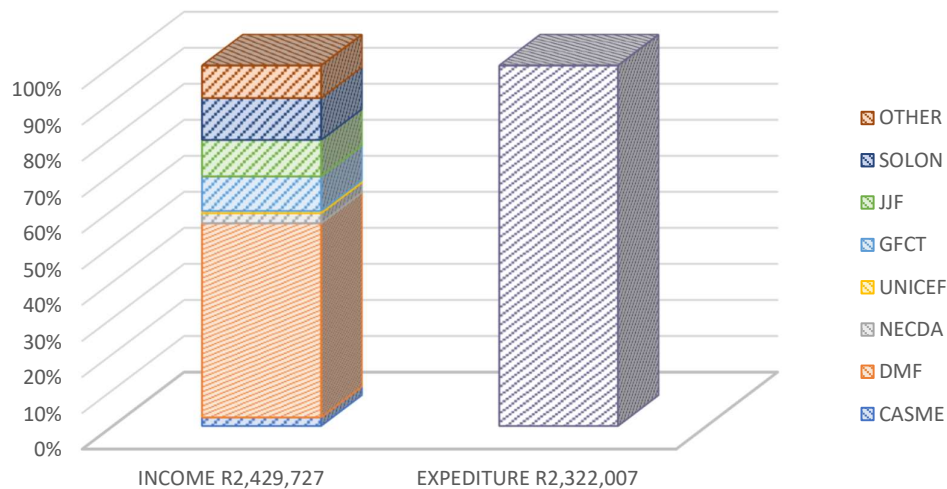
Audited by RI Kennedy and Associates

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	R	R
Assets		
Property Plant and Equipment	42,033	49,671
Trade and other Receivables	6,087	138,521
Cash and cash equivalents	339,268	98,328
Total Assets	387,388	286,520
Equity and Liabilities		
Retained Income	276,414	168,694
Current Liabilities	110,974	117,826
Total Equity and Liabilities	387,388	286,520

SUMMARY OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AT 30 JUNE 2023

Grant Income	780,925	1,032,675
Contract Income	1,470,753	1,090,560
Other Income	144,155	13,008
Net Investment Income	33,894	7,055
Total Income	2,429,727	2,143,298
Less Operating Expenses		
Employee costs	1,147,500	1,011,740
Project costs	763,861	588,193
Other operating expenses	410,646	374,671
Total operating expenses	2,322,007	1,974,604
Surplus for the year	107,720	168,694



Funders

The generosity of our donors and supporters enables us to do the work we do. These donors and organisations understand that the inequities of the past continue to impact all spheres of life in South Africa today. They also recognise the key role that the NGO sector plays in reshaping the future of our society, especially for our children. We are grateful for the commitment and support of the following donors, partners and individuals in 2022/23:



Training and Resource Partners



Small Donations

Individuals

Francois Lombard
Shirley Pearson
Judith Wurtzel
Maureen Thelland
Frans Lundie
Anne Merrifield
Elsbeth Shone

Organisations

The Solon Foundation
The Gardener Magazine



YOUNG CHILD FORUM



DUPLO LEGO



PARENT WORKSHOPS



CLASSROOM LIBRARY PROJECT



EVERY WORD COUNTS early literacy training



NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT



EAT LOVE PLAY TALK



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY



READING WORKSHOPS



Contact us

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NPO Registration : 263-836 NPO

PBO Registration for Tax Exemption : 930073455

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