

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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Letter from the Executive Director

In the midst of a global pandemic it's easy to become discouraged. There's so much out of our control and so much going wrong. As an organisation, we've had to pivot so many times that it can feel like having one foot nailed down while just moving in circles.

But we have managed to maintain focus by keeping our eyes fixed on the north start of how to serve the Philippi community: We still aim to remove the barriers that drive young people to give up on their education, and we still believe we're getter together.

The pandemic has only amplified many of those barriers, making Amandla's work that much more important. But we're so grateful that many of our supporters and partners in this work have also amplified their support, enabling us to continue serving.



Founding Director: Scott Clarke

This report shares how we have continued working with Philippi's youth, even if not in school and other formal settings, to understand their needs and build collaborations with our network partners. Our approach of hearing from the community and co-creating the interventions they need has served us well in being able to be adaptable. I think every one of us understands in a whole new way what it means to change how we do things to manage a difficult situation. It's so vital that our programmes adapt according to the day-to-day realities of the people we serve.

I think our young people are tired of needing to be resilient. But in our safe spaces and with our mentors and social workers, they found spaces in which they could let their hair down and maybe not have to be so strong. They've found co-labourers who see them and hear them and work with them to create the safety nets they need. As gender-based violence increased, we worked with young men on consent. As joblessness soared, we worked on job readiness and skills. As contact time with teachers fell, we created more academic tutoring in our safe spaces. Adapt, adapt, adapt.

It's been a harrowing year that has left many of us uncertain of what lies ahead in some ways. But, our youth know they're not alone in it, and as an organisation we know we're not alone because of our global network of supporters. So we invite you to read on about some of the milestones and inroads we've made, despite the difficulties.

BASIC DETAILS OF THE ORGANISATIONS

- 1.1) NPO Number 133-205
- 1.2) Organisation Name: Amandla Community Education Development
- 1.3) This report covers the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021
- 1.4) Contact Person: Tinotenda Tadokera

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- 1.5) Organisation's Physical Address: Catholic Welfare and Development CDC, 62 Lillian Ngoyi Drive, Samora Machel 7785
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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS: WHY A CRADLE- TO -CAREER APPROACH?

At the heart of Amandla's mission is ending the crisis of dropping out of school. While improving the quality of instruction in school is part of this, we must focus on the many causes of dropping out. These include everything from HIV to GBV to poor reading skills.

It is becoming clearer that the COVID-19 pandemic pushed even more students out of school as they opted not to return as things normalized. Clearly Covid affected the lives of our children in many ways. Many lost a caretaker in addition to months of instruction in the classroom. It's daunting to think of how many lives were irreparably harmed. But the situation really does underscore just how many factors we must consider when it comes to keeping our kids in school until completion.



Peer mentors graduation

Ensuring cradle-to-career support is why Amandla coordinates a cross - sector network of organisation's government departments, and schools, all with the common goal of children's success. Our activities may be different, but we share common

responsibilities for Philippi's young people. This report highlights some key accomplishments in the journey over the past year. But it's still clear how far we must go and just how much more needs to be done to ensure that every child is supported, every step of the way.

RESOURCE ACCESS PROGRAMME

Empowering Learners to Seek Support

The Resource Access Programme aims to build resilience and agency in young people, empowering them to seek out the cradle-to-career supports that they need. It's one thing for them to be aware of what's available to them, but quite another for them to be confident enough to seek it out. Through RAP Amandla invites into schools' partners from our collective impact network who provide the supports the learners need to share with the learners who they are and how learners can access them.

But, because knowledge alone isn't sufficient to change behaviour, we also have a peer mentoring programme through which learners spend time with their mentor each week, coming to trust their mentor as a real-time resource to help them access the supports they need.

Mentors implement an interactive curriculum that helps learners see they're not alone as they try to navigate their cradle-to-career journey, as there is a whole community of support there for the. And mentors are trained to refer learners to the specific supports they need over time. Because grades 4, 7, and 9 are key transition phases, peer mentoring works with learners in those grades. In 2020 and 2021 over 3600 learners across 13 of Philippi's schools were part of RAP and peer mentoring.



Peer mentors training to lead school sessions

RESOURCE ACCESS PROGRAMME

More Time with Learners

In 2020 our mentors pivoted to helping schools reopen. As we slowly came out of hard lockdown, and it was unclear how social distancing could be enforced amongst children in such crowded conditions, it was to Amandla that many schools turned for support. Because at that stage it was unclear how our mentors could go back to implementing our programme, they were reassigned to helping teachers sanitise the hands of learners and to helping learners acclimate to the new way of doing things.



Students in a academic tutoring session

2021 proved to be a key time of planning and reflection for the way forward for RAP. What if it became long-term that we could fully implement the programmes in schools with parents and caretakers? It was clear to us that

at our learners needed more mentorship and are as the pandemic continued to cause uncertainty. So, adding an after-school component to RAP became a priority for consideration. How could we do that? We could link to the great opportunities our safe space offered. So, we began designing links to activities at our safe space so that learners could get help with their math's homework, something proved crucial as class time was so limited.

We're proud that every one of the learners taking advantage of the academic support passed their final exams. Several learners also participated in arts activities from dance to drama, getting chances to perform in various local competitions. We're excited to see the participation and offerings expand in 2022.

RESOURCE ACCESS PROGRAMME

Caretaker Support

Meeting with caretakers of our learners proved to be a mammoth task in the first half of 2021 with so many restrictions on meeting still in place and school starting a month late. But, knowing that community members were still seeing each other and talking, we recruited a small cohort of "champion" parents to encourage their friends to be more involved in their local schools.

That effort began to bear fruit as we heard from more and more caretakers that the encouragement, they received from each other motivated them to speak with their child's teachers and to follow up with their child about their education. We're excited to see what this new approach yields.



Peer Mentors during a 'no means no' training, session which teaches the youth to build agency and resistance to overcome everyday challenges

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Community Solutions programme brings together our collective impact network of government, schools, and organisations to improve the quality and accessibility of cradle-to-career supports in Philippi.

In 2019 we saw tremendous growth of our response to the scourges of genderbased violence and HIV. Youth account for the majority of all new HIV cases and young women the majority of those. Stopping the spread of HIV in these populations is critical to not losing an entire generation. And while we often think of gender-based violence as a separate "issue area," the reality is that the lack of female empowerment is actually empowering the virus to take more lives. So, in 2019 Amandla expanded our team and rolled out a much more comprehensive programme for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), surfacing the HIV+, and for retaining PLHIV in care.

But it was in 2020 and 2021 that the depth of the need became clear. As many young women were forced to stay home with the person abusing them and as intimate partner violence increased, so did Amandla's response to it.



Victim friendly room launched by Amandla Development at the Philippi police station PAGE 08

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gender Based Violence

It was no secret that gender-based violence was destroying the lives of young women across South Africa. But COVID-19 drew the issue into sharp focus as numbers of cases increased. Not only was Amandla able to more fully implement No Means No self-defense classes for our AGYW, but we also began an economic strengthening and livelihoods programme to give AGYW more choices in relationships.

By being less dependent on their male partners for financial security, AGYW have more sexual and personal agency because they're not afraid of losing financial stability. So we trained women in basic job readiness, helped them apply for their learner's licence, and trained a group in marketable skills like baking and nail tech services. The pilot project for this effort has been funded to continue for three years.



Amandla staff attend a substance abuse training organised by the Department of Social Services

PrEP

Capacity training for our health workers

In collaboration with our safe space partners, PrEP is now offered to sexually active young people at our safe space. After completing their risk assessment, sexually active young people are given the option of starting PrEP. Known to be over 99% effective in preventing HIV, PrEP is a key means of empowering young people to take charge of their sexual health. Especially for young women finding it difficult to negotiate safer sex, access to PrEP can make all the difference in staying HIV negative. We can only hope to expand this offering as much as possible.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Figure in Rands	2021	2020
Revenue		
Grants and donations received	5 726 781	6 230 143
Other Income		
Gains on disposal of assets	-	17 993
Expenses	(5 589 250)	(4845108)
Operating surplus	137 531	1 403 028
Investment Income	55 361	75 980
Finance Costs	(1)	-
	55 355	75 980
Surplus for the year	192 886	1 479 008

Special thanks to











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and individuals like you