



**66**

**jobs created**

**5140**

**children assisted**



**CHILDREN'S EDUCATION  
& YOUTH JOBS**

**2020**

# Table of Contents

3



Executive  
Summary

5

Covid-19  
Response



8



Literacy  
Sessions

11

Youth  
Jobs



Libraries

13

EduTech  
Centres



15

Extracurriculars



17

Infrastructure



19

Appendices



22

2020 was the most difficult year in Masinyusane's 12-year lifetime. We lack adequate words to describe the violence it inflicted upon our families and communities. The lives lost. The hunger felt. The stress of unprecedented job losses.

Yet we are deeply proud of our team for stepping up during such a difficult time. We led one of the biggest feeding projects in the city, continued to pay all of our staff (including all 60 youth jobs), and managed to run our libraries and literacy centres while schools were opened.

This pandemic presented unprecedented challenges and devastated our communities in many ways. While we have no intention of downplaying this devastation, in this report, we will try to focus on the projects and their accomplishments.

### **The Mission & Goals**

We will hit all of our major project goals, including the launch of a new school, the creation of over 60 community jobs, the launch of more ECD projects, and the expansion of the project at our partner schools.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- We created 60 desperately needed community jobs
- All literacy centres and libraries operated throughout the pandemic while schools were open.
- We built four brand new libraries & literacy centres.
- Our Covid-19 Emergency Response project fed over 75,000 people in families from 80 schools.

The loss of 4-5 months of the year has shattered our hopes of major academic improvements and tens of thousands of literacy hours. However, our children still did excellent relative to the control group. And we still managed to get thousands of books into the hands of children throughout the year.

Our project mission remains two-fold:

(a) to provide opportunities for children in the Eastern Cape to get a high quality education, discover and develop talents, and to grow towards their potential.

(b) to empower the community to uplift itself by creating local jobs for previously unemployed youth to work in their own community's schools and ECDCs.

Given the circumstances, we would say we succeeded with both of those.

### **Covid-19 Response**

In April, we repurposed our entire team to assist with our emergency covid assistance project. Our staff helped feed over 75,000 people across 80 schools. It was the biggest feeding programme in the city.

At the same time, we created, launched and

rolled out a children's television show (with two partner NGOs) that aired every day. This allowed us to engage our youth, reach our children while schools were closed, and flex our adaptive muscles as an organisation.

All of this was accomplished within a month of the pandemic striking and it made an enormous difference in the lives of our children and families.

With schools reopening, we are winding down the feeding project and repurposing everyone back to the children's education initiatives.

### **The Path Forward**

Despite the pandemic, Masinyusane built two beautiful, huge literacy centres and libraries at primary schools. We also built two literacy centres at preschools and are in the process of building a third.

These projects brought hope to our communities as they served as a reminder that this will one day be over, the future still holds bright things and that there's something to look forward to.

Everyday South Africans aren't expected to receive the vaccine until mid-2022, so we will be living with Covid-19 for a while.

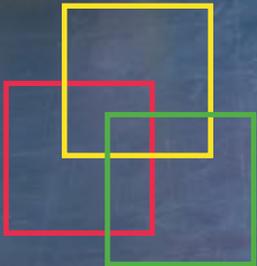
But educating our children cannot wait and we intend on running at full capacity in the new year.

With your support, we will continue to create jobs, empower schools and educate children.

Thank you for being so generous and supportive during this incredibly difficult year. Together, we made a huge difference.

# FEATURE PROJECT

Our brand new Grade 2 & 3 literacy centre at Isaac Booi P.S.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

“These families could not hold back their tears of joy due to excitement and gratefulness when they received them. They believed that those food parcels will make a huge difference at their homes. This gesture was really highly appreciated.”

~ Principal N. B. Nolokwe (Zanoxolo Primary School)



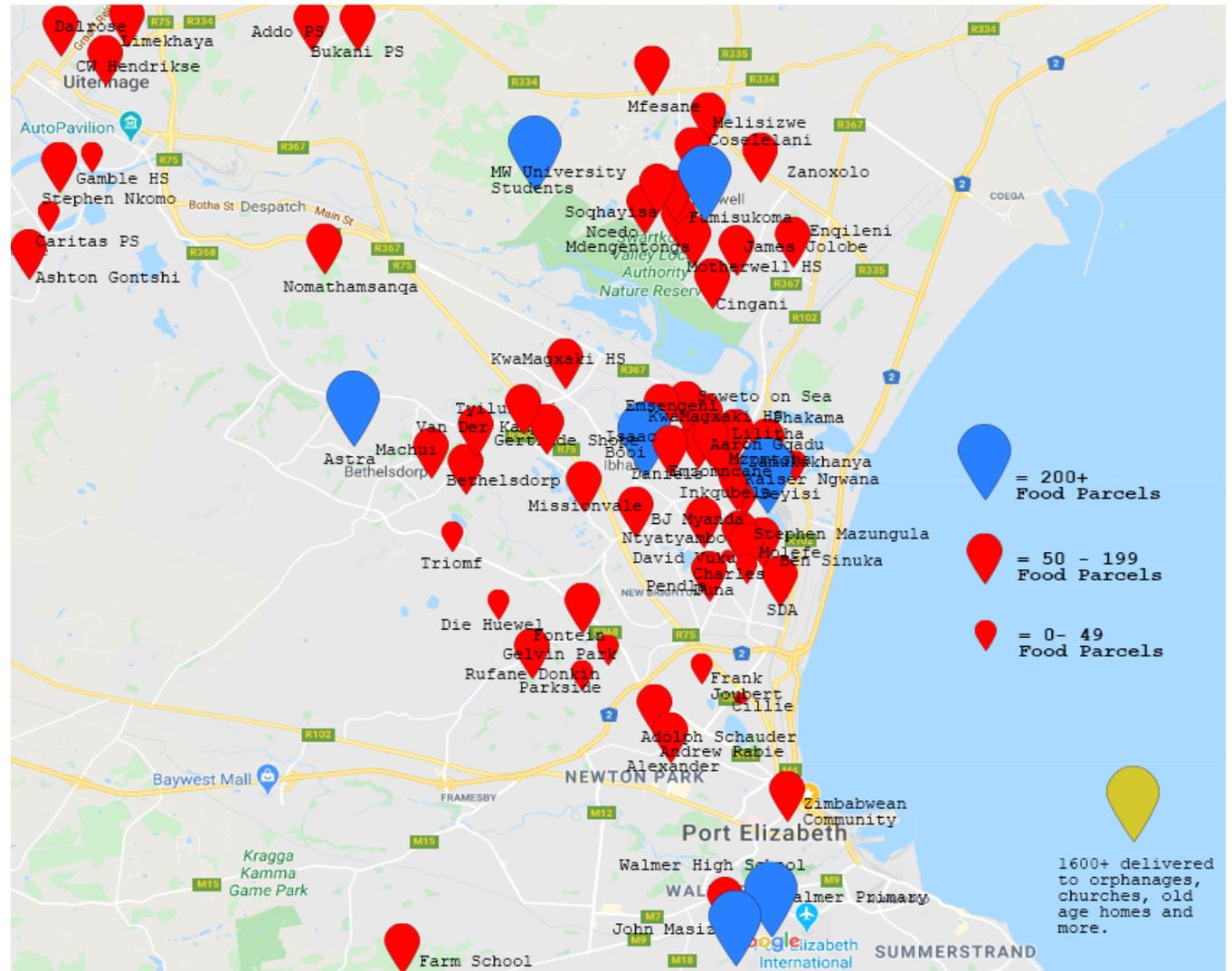
# Covid-19 Food Parcels

Many of our children relied on getting two of their meals at school every day. With schools closing, we knew our most impoverished children would start to go hungry. With the help of many generous donors, we launched Project Unity, our emergency food relief programme.

Project Unity is the largest feeding programme in the city, having distributed over R3 million of food already to more than 80 schools. We have partnered with the Department of Education to ensure the poorest schools and communities are receiving support.



# 75,102 People Fed



# Covid-19 TV Show

With schools closed, we knew we had to find creative ways of reaching our children. As part of Project Unity, we teamed up with Masifunde & United Through Sport **to create a television show for children**. It's aired twice a day, every day, including during prime time, on Bay TV across all households in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

Launched during Level 5 lock down, we had the team contributing towards something positive immediately. We felt it important to teach, especially the youth, that you need to be innovative, creative and perseverant during difficult times. Even if it meant launching a TV show from our individual homes with suboptimal equipment and zero experience :)

We put our youth to work reading stories, using puppets, creating skits, giving tips to parents about how to read to their children, sharing fun activities at home and more. It's just one more way we have tried to step up during the Covid-19 lock down and be there for our children and communities. You can tune into Bay TV any week night at 17:30 to catch an episode or check out our YouTube channel.



# LITERACY SESSIONS



# A Generation of Readers

Masinyusane's Literacy Coaches provide customised, individual literacy sessions to children for the first 5-7 years of their schooling life. This provides them with the foundation they need to read, write and comprehend. Every child is unique and learns differently. Even worse, many of our children are packed into classrooms with 40 to 50 children. Our Literacy Coaches provide customised, one-hour literacy sessions designed to work with the child at their level. This is the most effective, full-proof way of ensuring every child learns and no one is left behind. It is unclear how many sessions our team will be able to hold in 2020 due to the pandemic, but we have already restarted!

# 563

Children Are  
Receiving  
Literacy Sessions



# 56

Literacy Coaches  
Work Across the  
Schools



# 8722

Sessions of Literacy Coaching  
Have Taken Place in 2020



# Children's Progress

The children made pretty good progress in 2020 despite the pandemic. Unfortunately, covid resulted in closed schools for 4 months and fifty percent capacity from Aug to Nov. We assess each child every 6 months on four different metrics. If a child reaches 'reading level' for their grade, we graduate them out of the programme and focus our energies on children still struggling. The sessions with the 2-6 year old children focus on phonics and sounds, while the sessions with the 7-10 year old children are focused on reading and writing. Below we highlight some of the most important statistics.



# 57%

Improvement in Phonics vs the Control Group for our Grade 1 Children



# 53%

Improvement in Phonics vs the Control Group for our Grade R Children



# 61%

Of 5-6 Year Olds Have Progressed by One Level





# Youth Employment

In 2020, we created jobs for 66 youth in our Children's Education programme. 56 of these youth serve as literacy coaches.

As noted above, the youth have played a critical role in our Covid-19 response, helping us roll out the food parcel project and launch a children's television show.

In August, they helped schools reopen by taking entire classrooms when teachers were absent. We also restarted all of our literacy sessions, providing children with the critical one-on-one assistance that so many need.

These jobs give the youth with the opportunity to earn an income, gain work experience, receive training, and take part in uplifting their own community's children.

During a pandemic, the jobs enabled the youth to serve as heroes in the community. Stepping up and making a difference while so many (such as older teachers) are trapped at home.

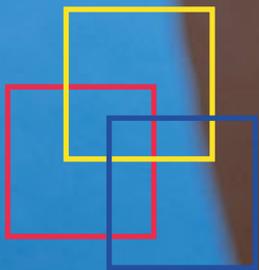
We were very proud to see them rise to this challenge.



**66**  
Previously Unemployed Youth  
Are Now Working In Their Local  
Community Schools



# LIBRARIES



# A Culture of Reading

Masinyusane has built and runs seven libraries. While the Literacy Centres teach children 'how to' read and write, the libraries make reading fun. Our library managers run a variety of projects, reading clubs and competitions. They are all designed to get as many children reading as possible. 93% of South African homes have fewer than 10 books, so we are proud to share that 4598 books have been borrowed by children so far in 2020. These libraries will become even more important now, during the pandemic, as we need to get books into children's homes to make up for lost time. We have also distributed over 10,000 literacy & learning packs to children with their covid food parcels.



# 52

Children Are Currently Participating in our Super Readers Club



# 4598

Books Taken Home By Children in 2020



# 6

Different projects are underway in each library



# EDUTECH CENTRES



# Educational Technology

Masinyusane is pioneering Educational Technology Centres in Port Elizabeth township primary schools. These Centres provide children with the opportunity to develop basic technological literacy skills, to access the world's best educational apps and to learn from countless innovative games. The Centres consist of both laptops and tablets. The laptops cater to the older children who learn to type, navigate Windows, and use Microsoft Office. The tablets enable the younger children who learn from literacy, math, creative & logic apps. The highlight of 2020 was the launch of our brand new Isaac Booi EduTech Centre, a place that became a haven for kids during the pandemic when teacher absenteeism was high.

1500+

Children Are Participating



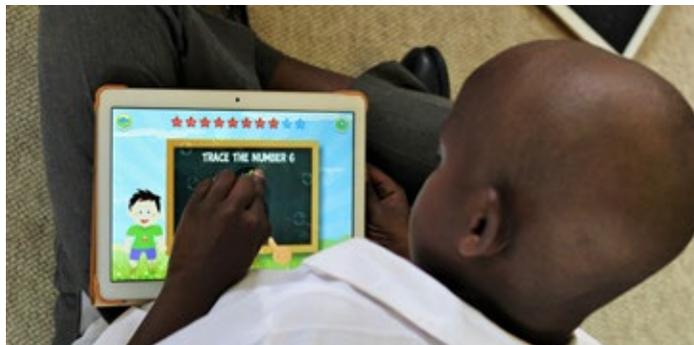
3

EduTech Centres

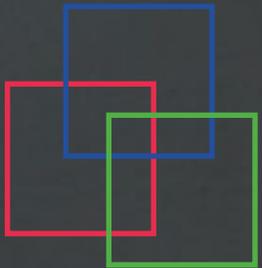


95

Laptops and Tablets Being Used



# EXTRA- CURRICULARS



# Talent Discovery

Masinyusane runs over 20 clubs and teams across multiple schools. Unfortunately, these are put on indefinite hold due to the pandemic.

Each of these is designed to help children discover and then develop skills they possess.

Not every child was made to sit still and read words or count numbers. Some were born to dance, draw, run and/or sing.

We believe in providing opportunities for those children to discover the talents that make them special.

Moreover, these extra-curricular programmes are safe after-school spaces for children to productively spend their time.

In addition to any given talent, the children develop social skills, confidence and friendships.

Our children have participated in events and tournaments across the city this year.

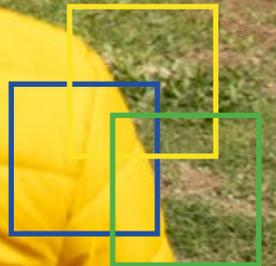
Teams include chess, traditional dance, rugby, soccer, board games, choirs, gardening, life skills, karate and a variety of computer clubs.



**20**  
Different Clubs and Teams Are Available for Children to Discover and Develop Their Talents



# INFRA- STRUCTURE



# Building a Better Environment

Masinyusane has invested nearly R2,5 million in infrastructure upgrades across our schools and ECD Centres in Port Elizabeth's townships over the past three years. These projects range from building brand new facilities, including libraries and computer labs to upgrades of failing infrastructure. The environment in which the teachers and children operate has a profound impact on their attitude, behaviour and ultimately performance. We are currently finishing our brand new, incredible Astra Primary School Library & Literacy Centre and will be excited to share it with you soon. Every child deserves to learn in decent, safe and inspiring environments.



2020 Projects Included:

- 4 Literacy Centres
- 4 New Libraries
- 1 New Educational Technology Centre
- 2 Foundation Phase Classrooms
- Multiple Classroom Renovations



5140  
Children Are Benefiting from the New Infrastructure



11  
School Infrastructure Projects





# Empowering Through Education