

IKHALA TRUST
Annual Summary Report
March 2022 - February 2023



Photo taken by a colleague at the Gariep Dam, Eastern Cape.

From the Director's Desk



From left to right: Ms Bernie Dolley, Ms Unathi Mselane and Ms Vuyokazi Sanxana

This year was indeed an exciting one for all of us at Ikhala Trust as we looked forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary of providing small grants to community partners and continued advocating and advancing our asset based approach to development with new partners coming on board. No mean feat at a time when funding to the not-for-profit has become increasingly difficult to source unless you are prepared to ‘tender’ for work and become sector focussed which is not how Ikhala Trust works.

We provide grants across sectors often times to partners who are involved in a range of different activities. An example is a group of senior citizens who not only provide a safe space for their peers but are also involved in income generating activities such as sewing and knitting as well as vegetable gardening. They are determined to stay fit and healthy and do regular exercises to start their day. Their resilience and tenacity are infectious and we are inspired by their energy.

The latest Household Affordability Index by the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group shows that food prices in South Africa continued to rise in February 2023. The average cost of the Household Food Basket was R4928.34 – this was up by R1091 (0.2%) from R4917.42 in January 2023 and up by R572.64 (13.1%) from R4355.70 in February 2022.

On the political front, there is definitely a feeling of no-confidence in the ruling party as more and more cases of gross mismanagement and corruption are reported on a daily basis. Money that should have been channelled to organisations that work with indigent communities has disappeared into thin air and there is a deep sense of mistrust.

It is indeed difficult to stay positive and confident in an environment where there are just so many negative stories with little or no consequence management. But, Ikhala Trust has to continue being the beacon of hope in the communities where we work as we know that so

many partners rely on our positive and enthusiastic spirit to get them through their own dark days.

We continue to scope the environment to seek out co-investment in the work that we do and we are hopeful that the strengths based development work we advocate will be good fruit in the coming months.

Message from the Chair 2023

*“Whatever the question is, the answer is community!” Brigs Bomba,
Trust Africa.*

I am delighted to once again present Ikhala’s 2022-23 annual report showcasing our work with poor and marginalised communities across the Eastern Cape. The importance of appreciating and valuing community-led efforts to improve local economic and social conditions cannot be underestimated, as it represents a rare glimpse into the struggles and aspirations of people whose lives and contributions are often ignored or discounted by mainstream narratives regarding development in South Africa.

These are stories of resilience, creativity and adaptability, staying optimistic and grateful in the face of material and social conditions that most of us would find intolerable. As public service delivery, particularly in the rural hinterlands, continues to falter, local economies crumble, and government policies and programmes fail dismally to live up to expectations, these community-led efforts are often the only thing standing between vulnerable citizens and catastrophe.

Ikhala continues, albeit on a small scale, to support, encourage, train and provide material assistance to **community-centric solutions** at the grassroots level. We are committed to this work for as long as we are able, while advocating and demonstrating ABCD principles so that others may appreciate the wisdom and work of community organisations. This requires honest introspection regarding our understanding of sustainable and meaningful community development, focusing on connection, power, relationships, and moving forward together.

Drawing from insights emerging from the 4th African Philanthropy Conference held in Senegal in July 2023, Purity Mumo¹ offers **five key strategies that lay the foundation for more equitable systems of engagement between would-be supporters and communities, namely: (1) localise leadership, (2) promote open dialogue, (3) empower through education, (4) leverage technology, and (5) encourage participatory frameworks.**

Ikhala will consider and integrate these principles into our practice moving forward.

I’d like to share a quote from Mumo’s paper reflecting on the conference proceedings as it really sums up our approach and values as an organisation:

When communities are positioned as primary stakeholders, solutions not only gain legitimacy but also resonate with grounded realities. The path forward, then, lies not in imposing solutions but in nurturing spaces where communities can craft their own futures, fortified by collective wisdom and a shared vision.

¹ [Empowering the collective: Reimagining a community-driven World - Alliance magazine](#)

As usual, I extend heartfelt thanks to the Board of Trustees for their sustained commitment to the organisation, to our donors for their continued support and faith in Ikhala's work, and of course to the Director, staff and associates of Ikhala without whom none of this would be possible.

Sarah Hugow, Chairperson

September 2023

Grants Administration



During this reporting period, Ikhala Trust disbursed small to medium size grants to the value of R 333 837.00 to **21** projects and organisations. The partners supported are involved in a range of different programmes and **more than 60% of them are involved in food security not just for themselves but also encouraging households to grow their own food.** The seedlings

are



sometimes provided by Ikhala Trust or the Department of Agriculture. Funds for Ikhala's seedling bank is donated by Grey High School as well as a private donor. We are particularly pleased with the continued support of the Nelson Mandela University's commitment to Community Kitchens operating in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The funds received from NMU are channelled to 4 Community Kitchens who are responsible for establishing vegetable gardens, reading clubs and providing meals on a regular basis. One of the CKs have been taught loom machine skills and are producing beautiful hand-woven mats that they sell

and are able to generate some income for themselves. Here we wish to thank Stuart Graham Fabrics for the donation of beautiful materials.



Members of the Enkazimlweni Service Centre, Keiskammahoek with some of the beautiful items they make and sell on social grant day!!

Capacity Building & Learning Events

Ikhala Trust's Asset Based Community Development workshops continues to gain traction and for the past 2 years we have trained students at Rhodes & Stenden Universities. Five ABCD workshops were held at different venues attracting a total of 122 participants. A total of 65 participants joined the ABCDE-On-Line Course. Thirty-one participants completed Project Management and Organisational Development and a total of 33 participants attended the Annual Conference.

Field trips were undertaken to all the community partners supported by Ikhala Trust. Our visits are always welcomed especially by our partners in rural communities as they know that we are always excited to see the progress they are making which they often do not write about in their reports.



Project Management and Organisational Development facilitated by Nin Eliasov at the Willows Resort and Conference Centre.

The winners of the Stanley Elliott Memorial Floating Trophy for 2022 was Yizani Sakhe Community Development Centre, Wells Estate, Gqeberha. Yizani Sakhe initially started a Soup Kitchen in Wells Estate during COVID19. They were then recruited into the group of Community Kitchens supported by the Nelson Mandela University.

Despite the challenges they face on a daily basis they continued to do well by clearing a dumpsite and turning it into a beautiful vegetable garden. They also started a Reading Club at the local primary school. Unfortunately their photo has gone into cyber-space.

Acknowledging the collective efforts of our community partners is very important to Ikhala Trust as without these committed members in the community most people would have no-one to turn to. They have become the eyes, ears, feet, hands and heart to hundreds of people across the Eastern Cape Province and helps to restore HOPE wherever they are.

“Remember: It’s not what you have, it’s what you do with what you have that makes all the difference”

Unknown



ABCD Participants at The Willows Resort & Conference Centre in January 2023

In conclusion

A huge thanks to all our donors and supporters for their support during this period. To our longstanding partner, Misereor and LegalWise SA, we want to extend a special word of gratitude. We also wish to thank the Nelson Mandela University, the Desmond Leech Bequest Fund, Grey High School, D G Murray Trust and the Union of Jewish Women for all your generous and continued financial and all forms of other support. We are truly grateful and without your support we would not be able to reach as many people as we do.

To the Board of Trustees who remain committed to Ikhala Trust despite their own very busy work schedules as well as our associates whom we can call upon to offer advice and support when needed to do so – we appreciate all of you!!