

Assupol Community Trust

2020 Annual Report



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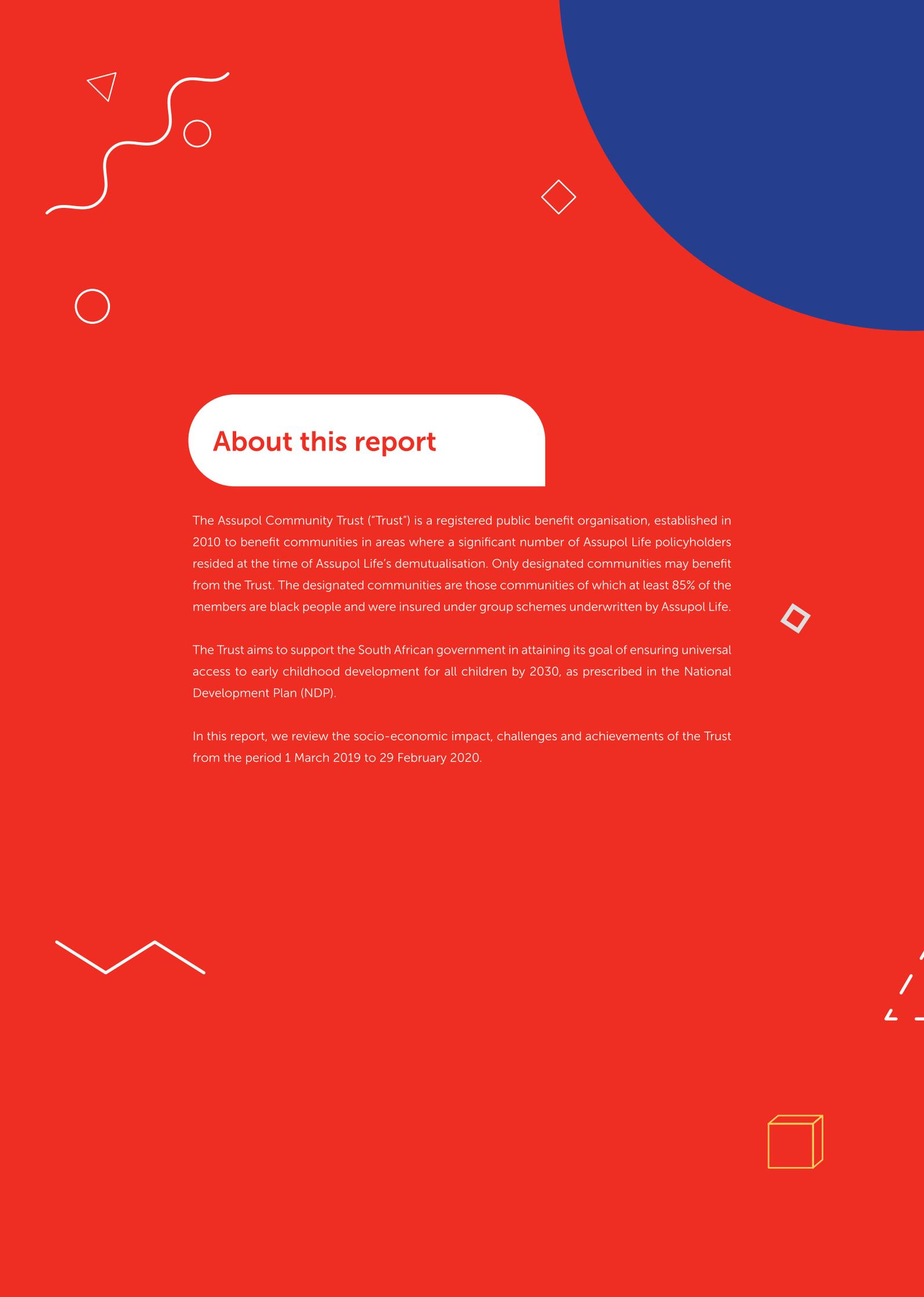
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About this report

The Assupol Community Trust (“Trust”) is a registered public benefit organisation, established in 2010 to benefit communities in areas where a significant number of Assupol Life policyholders resided at the time of Assupol Life’s demutualisation. Only designated communities may benefit from the Trust. The designated communities are those communities of which at least 85% of the members are black people and were insured under group schemes underwritten by Assupol Life.

The Trust aims to support the South African government in attaining its goal of ensuring universal access to early childhood development for all children by 2030, as prescribed in the National Development Plan (NDP).

In this report, we review the socio-economic impact, challenges and achievements of the Trust from the period 1 March 2019 to 29 February 2020.



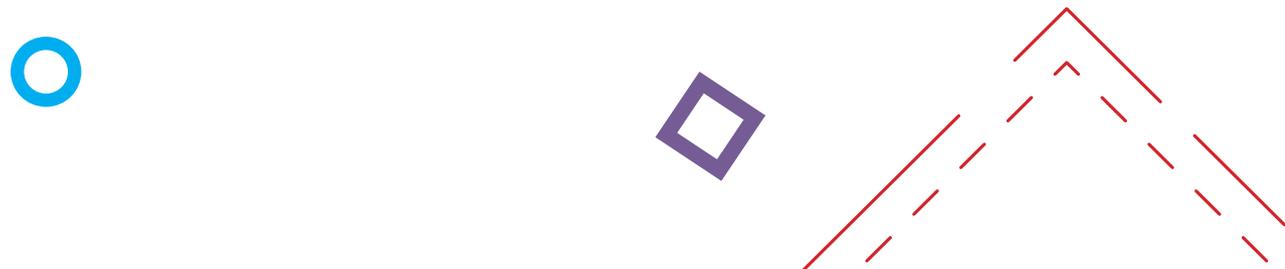
Introduction



The National Development Plan (NDP) of 2012 and the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy of 2015 commit to ensuring that every child in South Africa has access to the full range of early childhood development (ECD) services by 2030. Although the departments of Social Development (DSD), Basic Education (DBE) and Health (DOH) are the lead state actors in improving and scaling up ECD, the NDP recognises that universal access will only be possible with innovative public-private partnerships. There is also wide agreement that a multi-sectoral approach and support from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have developed a rich body of experience and expertise is also critical in achieving the goal of universal access.

Research indicates that ECD is key to the development of any nation. South Africa's development therefore depends on the extent to which it can unlock the potential human capital inherent within its very young population (*DSD, 2015:19*). A majority of children from the poor communities lack access to quality ECD services which disadvantages them at a critical point in their development and perpetuates cycles of poverty and exclusion.

The ECD policy identifies essential components of the comprehensive package of quality ECD services that are appropriate for each child's age and development stage that must be available and accessible to all infants and young children. Assupol Community Trust's strategy for 2019-2022 is rooted on these essential components focusing, in particular, on poor communities.





Chairman's report

Taurai Muranda

The year under review was a period that, validated our approach to attaining the goals we identified when the Trust was formed. It delivered results that reflected positively on our work over the past three years, and also emphasised the scale of the challenges that continue to face those of us working in the South African early childhood development (ECD) sector.

An evolving strategy

The Assupol Community Trust was established to fulfil specific goals. We wanted to benefit the communities identified (Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu), to build strong foundations for the children in these communities, and ultimately, to contribute to a brighter future for the children and for the nation.

As our work develops, and our knowledge of our communities grows, it is natural that our strategy is updated in order to best meet our objectives in light of the changing context in which we operate. For this reason we plan our strategy in three-year cycles, allowing us to refine it to suit our medium-term goals. As a result of this year's strategic review, we have added a fifth strategic objective to support the Trust's mandate: *Advocating for universal access to ECD.*

The areas the Trust operates in are faced with significant challenges: unemployment, poverty and inequality. Naturally, for many of the parents in these areas, ECD has not been viewed as a priority. If the importance of ECD is not emphasised, children are likely to miss out on vital grounding for their future success, which once lost can never be recovered.

To this end the Trust conducted a number of awareness campaigns in these areas, talking to parents to emphasise the importance of ECD. These awareness campaigns are partly responsible, in my view, for the stunning success we have seen over the year in terms of the number of children accessing ECD services.

But advocacy is not limited to parents. We will aim to communicate the benefits of ECD, and our learnings in the space, to a range of stakeholders going forward, including, crucially, government at a local level which has a critical role to play.

ECD function shift

The biggest change to the macro-context in which we as the Trust operate occurred in February 2019. President Ramaphosa announced that the ECD function in South Africa will move from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education, and that government would make an additional year of schooling – Grade RR – mandatory.

The announcement caused excitement amongst ECD practitioners and specialists, including the Trust, and was taken as a positive development for the sector. The shift will allow ECD to be more aligned with the goals of preparing children for school, fitting them into the educational system, and treating their development holistically. It also makes the alignment of ECD and school curricula more robust and effective, which should make it easier for children to transition from ECD centres to mainstream education.

The function shift was validation of the value of the work that the Trust and the ECD sector have been doing, and we hope that it will be followed by increased budget allocation to accelerate universal access to ECD and realise the aspirations of Vision 2030. From our perspective, we want to see more learning taking place in both centre-based and non-centre-based ECD in our communities. We want to see more centres that take cognisance of the developmental needs of the young child.

The ECD areas we focus on are mainly run by women working independently. These women started ECD as a passion and did not have relevant skills to stimulate children. Much of the work that has been done by the Trust – including training ECD practitioners, supplying the learning material, supporting ECD centres to register ECD programmes and providing nutrition – has been aimed at improving the quality of ECD and assisting children to transition

effectively to the school environment. Our hope is for our work in that regard to become more impactful as the repercussions of the function shift begin to be felt. Children will be given the right foundation, and will be able to build on it sustainably.

Although we recognise that South Africa is in a difficult, and worsening economic environment, we believe that there is a need to properly fund the ECD sector to a greater, not lesser extent. It has been demonstrated time and time again that interventions and investments made at the level of early childhood result in significant economic benefits in the long-term.

Board visit

The Board of Trustees visited Nquthu and Msinga in 2019. We were overwhelmed by the gratitude we received from the communities, the government departments in those areas, the ECD practitioners, and from parents and grandparents. We were blessed by the outpourings of gratitude, and felt encouraged to do more. The visit was eye-opening in terms of showing us the reality of the conditions under which our management team and the ECD practitioners are working. It is a challenging environment, and we must extend our renewed congratulations and appreciation for the work of our CEO and project managers.

Acknowledgements

This year saw the departure of our previous chairperson, Ms Ntjantja Ned. Ms Ned was absolutely instrumental in guiding and furthering the ideals of this Trust. She assisted in the forging of crucial relationships with the Hollard Foundation Trust and other stakeholders. She also assisted with the identification and recruitment of our CEO, Dr Vuyelwa Nhlapo. Ms Ned is passionate and knowledgeable about ECD and has played an immensely important role in getting the Trust to the point at which it is today. Her presence and contribution will be greatly missed.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Assupol, for their assistance in building the capacity of the year's programme. They continue to offer their support generously and in a multitude of ways.

The Board of Trustees considers this year's achievements and successes immensely gratifying. They are as a result of the commitment and hard work by the Trust's management team, the support of our valued partners, and the value of the strategy we have set. To Dr Nhlapo, her team and the various project officers – you have done a sterling job in raising the Trust's levels of effectiveness and enabling it to meet its objectives. To the Board of Trustees – Dr Natalie Skeepers, Bridget Mokwena-Halala, Tebogo Malatji – I can only say thank you, thank you, thank you.

The future

We are living in challenging times. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on this year's plans to support government in realising its call for universal access to ECD for children aged 0–5 by

2030. At the time of writing this report, we were not yet sure when all the ECD centres would be deemed safe for children to go back for learning, in the wake of the spread of the Coronavirus. This requires a different level of support when communities are severely impacted by dropping incomes, lower economic activity, and above it all the threat of COVID-19 infection. We are hopeful that we can work effectively with government to minimise further disruption towards achieving the 2030 goal.

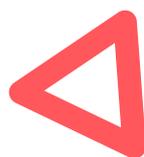
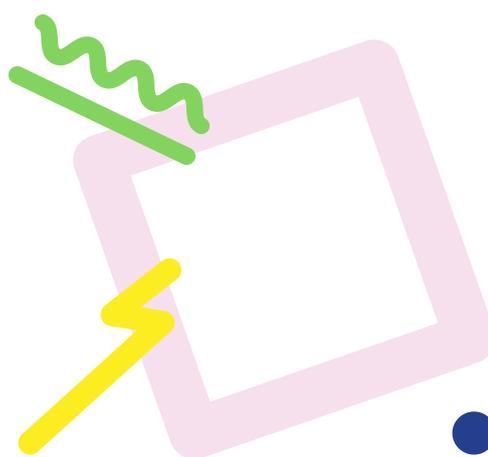
Going forward the need is still immense. We need to not only continue, but to expand our work in order to reach as many children as possible, giving them access to nutrition, stimulation for effective development, and a proper foundation for a rewarding, active life.

When you look at the reality of life in vulnerable communities across South Africa, you realise the importance, life-changing, nation-building value of universal access to ECD. We are cognisant of the fact that we are helping to build future leaders of our country.

Government's reappraisal of, and increasing commitment to, the ECD sector is going to open up more opportunities. We look forward to greater engagement with the state to coordinate our efforts and work jointly to achieve our goals.

We have a committed board, CEO and operational team who are energetic and passionate about our ECD mandate. There is always more that can be done and the Trust remains committed, because we are aware that our work has just begun.

Taurai Muranda
Chairman





CEO's report Dr Vuyelwa Nhlapo

It is not easy to sum up a year that was in turn exciting, gratifying, and full of fear and uncertainty. But reviewing the work of the Trust, a theme begins to emerge: *Moving Forward, Opening the Doors of Learning*. That theme speaks to the way in which our strategic objectives have progressed, and the way in which the provision of quality ECD services opens the doors of learning, and thus possibility, for young people. For this country to move forward, and to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality, ECD counts.

Our mandate is to support government's vision of universal access to ECD for children aged 0–5 by 2030. But improving access to ECD services is only the first step. If those services are not of sufficient quality then their full benefits will not be realised. And thus our work is aimed not just at expanding access to ECD, but at ensuring that this ECD is impactful. Quality ECD relies on practitioners with the relevant skills, on having the right educational equipment and materials, and on ECD centres having the required infrastructure to keep children safe and stimulated.

For children to grow and develop to their full potential it is also crucial that they receive nutritious meals. No child can learn on an empty stomach. Proper nutritious meals make sure that children grow and develop as they ought to.

South African legislation governs the context within which ECD takes place. Compliance with those regulations – with the Children's Act 38 of 2005, and with municipal bylaws – is meant to ensure that ECD environments are safe for children and conducive to the provision of quality ECD services. But the reality is that the majority of ECD centres are informal; they do not comply with these norms and standards. And the compliance gap is not just marginal; in many instances it is insurmountable. Unless organisations such as the Trust work to support these facilities to reach a level at which they're able to integrate into the formal system and eventually access government funding, they will never be able to progress to a point of compliance.

Opening the doors of learning is not something that can be done by just one organisation. It requires collaboration, and it requires partnerships. The National Integrated Policy for ECD, which was approved by Cabinet in 2015, recognises that ECD needs to happen through the

combined efforts of a host of stakeholders – governmental and non-governmental, profit and non-profit.

The benefits of this approach have been obvious in our work. Our success can be attributed to the fact that we have strong partnerships, and that we benefit from the meaningful contributions of a host of stakeholders. We need to continuously be aware of ways in which we can upscale our work and make an outsize impact. Our ability to do so relies on the extent to which we can leverage our partnerships and the relationships we have built.

Our new strategic objective, of advocating broadly for the benefits of, and the importance of universal access to ECD, is another way in which we hope to make an outsize impact on the sector. As we accumulate learnings and knowledge gained through our work on the ground, it is of benefit to a range of stakeholders that we make this information available so that it can feed into decision-making and resource allocation.

Progress made

We have seen gratifying progress made against most of our objectives in the year under review.

Improving access to ECD services

There has been a significant increase in the number of children accessing ECD.

As a Trust, we see improving access to ECD as a clear step forward in reducing inequality and poverty in South Africa. So it is immensely pleasing to see the progress we have made in expanding access to ECD services.

This success is the culmination of all of our work, but I think it is especially due to our increased focus on raising awareness amongst parents, of the crucial importance of ECD and of our efforts to establish a non-centre-based ECD model in areas with no ECD facilities.

According to this model, we have recruited and trained unemployed women as day mothers, who are permitted to look after up to six children, and as playgroup facilitators, who are trained to stimulate children through play, and can look after groups of up to 15 children.

Improving quality of ECD services

In 2016, as we entered our previous three-year strategic cycle, we began by conducting an ECD audit in order to determine the extent of ECD delivery in the three areas in which we were going to work, and establish a baseline against which we could measure subsequent progress.

The audit's findings indicated that a majority of practitioners did not have relevant skills, nor the necessary educational equipment to facilitate learning. Another key finding was that children lacked nutritious meals, particularly in the areas with high levels of poverty. And finally, we discovered that a majority of ECD centres were informal and unregistered.

In the year under review we have made progress in the training of ECD practitioners, in providing learning materials, and in distributing nutritious, healthy meals. The result is a marked improvement in the quality of ECD services being provided. Children are stimulated by skilled practitioners, and learning is facilitated through the use of appropriate early-learning educational materials.

As a result of these efforts we are not only seeing more effective ECD for the children involved; the ECD practitioners are reporting much-improved morale and job satisfaction. Whereas previously practitioners were often discouraged because they did not have a clear idea of what activities to plan each day, we have seen them become more and more confident in their abilities, in what is expected of them, and what to do each day to ensure the children in their care derive the utmost benefit from their work.

The effect of nutritious meals on children's early growth and development cannot be overstated. The porridge we provide, with the help of our partners JAMSA, provides 75% of a child's daily required nutrients. As a result we've seen a reduction in stunting and fewer cases of malnutrition.

Facilitating compliance

Progress against this objective is the one area in which the Trust struggled this year. The biggest challenge is that these centres need to secure land-use rights so that they can operate as partial-care facilities. These rights are often difficult to substantiate, particularly where the ECD centre is located on traditional land, which is often the case in KwaZulu-Natal, or unproclaimed land, which occurs in Gauteng.

The process of applying for land-use rights is costly and can also be technically difficult. We continue to assist centres with these processes, but are sometimes hamstrung by the cumbersome

bureaucratic procedures that need to be followed. These procedures take a long time at a local government level, and delay any infrastructure support.

Promoting good governance, partnerships and relationships

The national ECD policy provides a framework for regulating partnerships to ensure that non-governmental organisations support the realisation of government's national integrated childhood commitments, and to ensure that all services provided comply with government's commitment.

The Trust partners with an array of active and committed stakeholders, and we have seen valuable benefits as a result. The issue of stakeholder management and relations is important for us, particularly because stakeholders have a great deal influence in the decision-making processes. Once you have the support of stakeholders, your ability to deliver on your objectives is greatly increased.

In terms of establishing governance structures in the communities, we have supported communities to nominate governance structures that represent them, for example in AGMs, and allow their voices to be heard. These structures also allow us to more efficiently liaise with the communities to ensure there is a clear understanding of our mutual strengths and expectations, and to allow them to participate and take ownership of interventions to a greater extent. In this way, there is increased buy-in on the part of communities and it is crucial to our bottom-up development approach, without imposing on communities.

Advocacy

To effectively advocate for universal access the Trust has developed an ECD model based on the lessons learnt over the past three years. We have documented our work, challenges and results since 2016, and based on this evidence we developed a model that is going to guide our work going forward, and which we believe is going to contribute significantly to our ability to effectively advocate for ECD.

Our response to COVID-19

When the Trust engaged in its strategic planning session at the beginning of the year, COVID-19 seemed a distant event, and we couldn't have imagined that it would affect us to the extent it has. We were anticipating a normal year, as I'm sure many others were. Instead we have had to postpone some of the activities we had planned, and prioritise responding safely and responsibly to the pandemic.

All ECD centres closed in mid-March, and at time of writing this report, they remain closed. The challenges around resumption of normal practice are significant. Parents are not paying school fees, and the effects on the practitioners have been severe. Without income they are unable to pay rates and taxes.

We have developed a relief plan to assist the ECD centres, focusing on three areas:

1. We have provided income support for a period of six months beginning in May to practitioners, day mothers, playgroup facilitators, and other staff at the centres, including cooks and gardeners.
2. We provide each ECD centre with operational cost support, to enable them to pay rent, rates and taxes.
3. When children return to the centres, we will ensure that protective equipment, including masks, soap, and thermometers, is available.

It is clear that in terms of making progress on sectoral goals, the remainder of 2020 has been all but lost. There are discussions as to whether children will go back any sooner than September. If we fail to support our networks and centres over this time we run the risk of losing the gains we have made entirely.

Appreciation

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their unwavering and invaluable support in ensuring that as management, we are able to realise the vision of the Trust.

Without the hard work of my two project managers – Fundiswa Molefe in KwaZulu-Natal, and Mmemme Makane-Sibanda in Gauteng – we would not have been able to achieve what we have achieved. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to them – they work under exceptionally demanding conditions, and deliver fantastic results notwithstanding.

Finally, any successes we have achieved would not have been possible without the support and contribution of our partners. I would particularly like to thank the Insika Foundation for their assistance in establishing food gardens in KwaZulu-Natal; the National Development Agency, which helped us train practitioners; and the Department of Health, for assisting us in training practitioners in growth monitoring.

And of course to the consortium with whom we work, as well as the Hollard Foundation, thank you so much for enabling us to achieve what we have. The danger of mentioning names is that you omit others, but I would just like to say to all our partners: thank you for collaborating with us and working together to help us achieve a dream we all share. Your contribution is deeply appreciated and valued.

The future

Despite the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the effect of the measures taken to halt its spread, the long-term outlook is bright. Our team continues to grow, providing an opportunity for us to upscale our efforts. We are also developing a monitoring and evaluation framework, and through this we will be able to systematically measure and assess programme activities and results.

Externally, there are more opportunities to showcase the work we have done and to build stronger partnerships. We see government's new integrated approach to address service-delivery challenges as an opportunity to link the work we are doing to broader government efforts, and to integrate our reporting with service delivery more broadly. There is much work to be done, and an unremitting appetite within the Trust to do it to the best of our ability.

Dr Vuyelwa Nhlapo
CEO

About us

What we do

The Assupol Community Trust aims to support the South African government in attaining its goal of ensuring universal access to early childhood development for all children between 0-5 years by 2030, as prescribed in the National Development Plan (NDP). We do this in designated communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng with the intention of supporting ECD centres to comply with the norms and standards to achieve full registration as prescribed by the Children's Act 38 of 2005.

Our logo

As an established public benefit organisation, it is important to ensure that the visual identity of the Trust is a reflection of its mandate, and honours the organisation it represents: Assupol.

Our new logo represents of each pillar of our values, under the themes of care, strength and unity, aligning to the proposition of our parent brand.



Our vision

Every child ready for the future



Our mission

Play a leading role in impacting the delivery of ECD in designated areas



Our values

Loving

- We care for our staff and all the children we serve, including differently abled children

Innovative and responsive

- We look for innovative solutions for our context
- We need to be agile to achieve under different circumstances

Respect and dignity

- We treat all stakeholders (children, mothers, fellow Trustees and staff) equally with respect and dignity
- Respect and dignity drive us to do the 'right thing'

Leaving a legacy

- We have a passion for what we do
- We strive for quality in all we do
- We serve a nation, inclusive of all stakeholders

Collaborative

- We engage with communities and other stakeholders towards sustainability
- We look for opportunities to empower all those we work within our ecosystem

Integrity and accountability

- We are ethical in all we do
- We are transparent in everything we do

Number of lives impacted



- 7,984 children accessed quality early learning opportunities (a 68% increase during the year under review)
- 3,535 children received nutritious food
- 196 young people accessed employment opportunities through the Youth Employment Service (YES) learnership
- 268 day mothers and playgroup facilitators appointed
- 805 ECD practitioners trained (including day mothers, YES learners and playgroup facilitators)

R27.6m
spent from
2016 – 2019

Our focus areas

KwaZulu-Natal: uMzinyathi District Municipality

- Msinga: 41 ECD centres, 81 playgroups
- Nquthu: 40 ECD centres, 3 playgroups

Gauteng: City of Tshwane

- Nellmapius: 78 ECD centres
- Nellmapius: 49 day mothers





Our strategic objectives

- To improve access to ECD for children between 0–5 years in Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu by 2022.
- To improve the quality of ECD services in Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu by 2022.
- To facilitate compliance with basic standards of registration, health, and safety in line with the Children’s Act 38 of 2005 and municipal by-laws in ECD facilities in Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu by 2022.
- To promote good governance, partnerships and stakeholder relations in the City of Tshwane and uMzinyathi District Municipality.
- To advocate for models that accelerate universal access to ECD.

Desired outcomes

- Increase the number of children accessing ECD in Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu.
- Increase the number of children living in an environment of care, development, safety, and security.
- Children performing better and being ready for school (health, growth, and nutrition).
- Parents involved and supporting the development of their children.
- The City of Tshwane, uMzinyathi District Municipality, Msinga Local Municipality and Nquthu Local Municipality prioritising ECD through funded programmes in their integrated development plans (IDPs).

Theory of change

Our theory of change has been based on the following:

- Provide practitioner support to meet child outcomes.
- Provide nutrition to enable children to grow properly.
- Adhere to the principle of play-based learning across our centres to ensure learning with impact.
- Engage with parents and communities to encourage mutual responsibility for the support of children and their attendance at ECD centres.
- Provide infrastructure support to enable government registration and funding. This includes helping existing ECD sites to be viable, to meet municipal compliance, registration and funding requirements.
- Get local government buy-in to drive scale and quality of ECD.
- Build partnerships to upscale and replicate best practice models.
- Advocate for models that accelerate universal access to ECD.

Meet the team



Dr Vuyelwa Nhlapo
CEO



Mmemme Makane-Sibande
Project Manager: Gauteng



Fundiswa Molefe
Project Manager: KwaZulu-Natal



Nokuthula Myeni
Administrator: Gauteng



Nontobeko Tshela
Administrator: KwaZulu-Natal



Sibahle Dlamini
Project Officer: KwaZulu-Natal



Angel Khanyile
Project Officer: KwaZulu-Natal



Chumani Maki
Monitoring and Evaluation
Specialist: Gauteng



Governance

The Assupol Community Trust (“Trust”) was established pursuant to the scheme for the demutualisation of Assupol Life for the benefit of communities in geographical areas in which a substantial number of insurance group scheme members reside.

The Trust is part of the demutualisation and its execution and fulfilment. Its purpose, as contemplated in the scheme document, is to benefit designated communities in a non-profit, charitable manner with an altruistic or philanthropic intent – by carrying on, as a public benefit organisation, public benefit activities in those communities.

The Trust may not provide benefits to Assupol Holdings or a subsidiary of Assupol Holdings.

The Trust is registered as a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, 1962. SARS approved the Trust’s purpose as the public benefit activity of providing educare or early childhood development (ECD) services for pre-school children, as meant in paragraph 4(h) of Part 1 of the Ninth Schedule of the Tax Act.

The Trust operates as a broad-based ownership scheme as defined in the B-BBEE Codes and adheres to the requirements of Annexure 100(B) of the B-BBEE Codes.

The Trustees

The Trust has five Trustees. In terms of the Trust Deed, it is required that three of the Trustees must be black persons. Two Trustees are appointed by Assupol Holdings Limited, and three Trustees are required to be independent as defined in the Trust Deed of the Trust. An “independent” Trustee is defined as a Trustee who:

- is not an employee or director of Assupol Holdings or a subsidiary of Assupol Holdings;
- is not a connected person of another Trustee;
- is not employed by the Trust; and

- does not have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in the Trust.

Independent Trustees are appointed by the independent Trustees from candidates recruited and recommended by a professional human-resource recruitment firm, which is of high standing and specialises in, or also in, the recruitment of company directors and similar fiduciary functionaries. The appointment of independent Trustees is further subject to a confirmatory vote by designated communities at the annual general meeting of the Trust.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Trust deed, the Trustees appointed by Assupol Holdings do not take part in decisions to appoint or remove independent Trustees.

A person may not be appointed as Trustee, and if appointed automatically stops being one, if he/she is or at any time in the past was:

- disqualified from being a director of a company in terms of the Companies Act;
- removed from an office of Trust because of misconduct;
- sequestered and has not been rehabilitated;
- declared by a court to be incapable of managing his/her affairs, or placed under curatorship, or otherwise disqualified in law to hold office as a Trustee;
- convicted of a crime involving dishonesty, or a crime for which he/she is or was sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine.

Trustee remuneration

The Trustees are entitled to a reasonable remuneration commensurate with their duties. Their remuneration is reviewed and determined yearly by a recognised remuneration specialist appointed by the Trustees. The remuneration specialist must take into consideration the provisions of this Trust deed, and may take into consideration any factors that it deems relevant.



Our Trustees



N Ned
Chairman

Independent Trustee since August 2014 and Chairman since November 2018



B Mokwena-Halala
MBL (Unisa)

Trustee since August 2014
(appointed by Assupol Holdings Limited)



T Muranda
CA(SA)

Trustee since August 2014
(appointed by Assupol Holdings Limited).
Independent Trustee since January 2018



T Malatji
B Proc, LLB

Independent Trustee since August 2014



Dr N Skeepers
PhD (Engineering Management)

Independent Trustee since November 2017



Dr V Nhlapo
PhD (Public Affairs)

Programme Director since February 2016 and CEO since August 2019

Meeting attendance

The table below shows the attendance of Trustees at board meetings held during the reporting period.

	07-03-2019	08-04-2019	31-05-2019	12-08-2019	06-11-2019
Trustees					
N Ned	C	C	C	C	C
B Mokwena-Halala	X	X	X	X	X
T Muranda	X	X	X	X	X
T Malatji	X	X	X	X	X
Dr N Skeepers	X	X	X	X	X
Executives					
Dr V Nhlapo	X	X	X	X	X
Invitees					
S de Beer	I	I	I	I	I
A - Absent with an apology C - Chairman X - Trustee I - Invitee					



Socio-economic impact

Accelerating access to ECD services

South Africa remains a highly unequal society. There are vast inequalities in the opportunities for children, and their circumstances from the moment they are born. The first step to giving children an equal start in life is to ensure that all young children get the full access of essential early services (*South African Early Childhood Review 2019*).

South Africa has set itself the target of achieving universal and equitable early childhood development (ECD) by 2030, with plans to provide every child up to 5 years of age with a minimum of two years of pre-primary school exposure before they enter basic schooling. As the foundation phase in the education value chain, ECD has been found to deliver lasting benefit to pupils, particularly the poor and disadvantaged (*Rakabe E, The need for proper early childhood development infrastructure is urgent, as published in the Mail and Guardian on 22 October 2015*).

Research shows that pupils with sufficient exposure to ECD have better achievement levels and cognitive abilities, and that the return on investment in ECD programmes can far exceed that of economic development projects. The Trust has contributed towards universal access to ECD by advocating the importance and benefits of ECD through awareness campaigns in the communities where few or no children access ECD. These campaigns have achieved great success with many parents enrolling their children to ECD centres.

Achievements

At the end of the 2018/2019 financial year 4,740 children between 0-5 years were accessing ECD in designated communities supported by the Trust. In 2019/2020 the Trust targeted a 40% increase in this number. This target was exceeded significantly, and saw 3,244 additional children enrolled in facilities providing ECD services, resulting in a total of 7,984 children who accessed ECD services in the 2019/2020 period. This achievement was as a result of Assupol Life's appointment of learners through government's Youth Employment Service (YES) initiative. Through the Trust, Assupol partnered with YES to invest in the creation of employment of South Africa's youth.

The YES initiative aims to contribute towards building and strengthening our economy by creating one million jobs and job opportunities for young South Africans from rural, urban and peri-urban areas within the next three years. Through this partnership, 196 young people, of which 94% are women, were recruited and placed in paid learnership programmes in various ECD programmes that the Trust supports in the areas of Nellmapius (Gauteng), Msinga and Nquthu (KwaZulu-Natal).

The appointment of 268 day mothers and playgroup facilitators also contributed to the increase in the number of children accessing ECD. Day mothers care for a maximum of six children as prescribed by Children's Act 38 of 2005. Playgroups cater for 10-15 children.

The Trust encourages the inclusion of children with disabilities in ECD programmes, and as a result during the awareness campaign, the Trust was able to identify children who were not accessing ECD, and successfully linked them to centres providing ECD programmes in their communities.



Gauteng Department of Health represented by the Community Health Worker who was doing health screening at the awareness campaign

Challenges

Poverty remains the biggest challenge that denies children from poor communities access to ECD. Non-compliance with the regulatory framework is also a barrier with the majority of the ECD centres in poor communities. Government cannot fund these centres, which in-turn denies access to ECD for children whose families cannot afford to pay school fees.

The number of children with disabilities that do not access ECD continues to affect not only the designated areas supported by the Trust, but South Africa at large. There is still a great need to advocate for the enrolment of children with disabilities in ECD programmes including creating an enabling environment for these children to access learning in these ECD centres. This includes not only infrastructure that accommodates these children but also equipping practitioners with relevant skills to stimulate the children with disabilities.

Improving the quality of ECD services

The first 1000 days of a child's life are the most important. Getting quality early childhood development is the best way to invest in the future of our nation. iThemba Projects indicates that the stimulation that occurs in the first five years of a child's life, lays the mental foundation for the rest of their lives. Children that have access to quality ECD are more likely to complete school.

Whilst quality ECD begins from 0-5 years of age, the *National Integrated ECD Policy 2015* ("national ECD policy") states that the most critical stage is from age 2 until the child enters formal school. This is a period in which developmental achievements are made for increasingly complex social behaviours, emotional capacities, problem-solving abilities, early literacy and numeracy skills.

The right to play is enshrined in *Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The national ECD policy defines play as a significant characteristic of childhood. Through play, children learn and explore the world around them while developing cognitively, socially, emotionally, creatively and physically. When we talk about 'education' in early childhood, we mean the opportunity to learn through play-based activities supported by caring adults, rather than to be 'taught' in a formal sense.

In addressing the challenge of quality services that are provided to the children in ECD centres, the Trust focused on the following three essential components:

1. Ensuring that learning outcomes are achieved by training ECD practitioners, including day mothers and playgroup facilitators;
 - To be able to demonstrate the ability to facilitate growth and skills development in ECD programmes,
 - To be able to set up and achieve learning activities that are appropriate for the developmental needs of young children, and
 - To establish a supportive and caring environment that meets

children's basic and social needs, helping them to also manage their own behaviour. All training programmes commissioned by the Trust incorporate the principle of play-based learning.

2. Provision of learning resources to stimulate learning for children in ECD.
3. Provision of nutrition to promote children's physical and mental development to enable them to grow healthy and strong. The government commits to ensuring that all infants and young children enjoy healthy physical growth, are well nourished and enjoy sustained access to nutritious food, by 2030. It advocates a comprehensive multi-sectoral national strategy for children from birth until the years before they enter school, aimed at eliminating stunting and malnutrition, reducing obesity and preventing hunger and food insecurity.

Successes

Training of practitioners

The Trust trained 805 ECD practitioners, day mothers and playgroup facilitators as indicated in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 below:

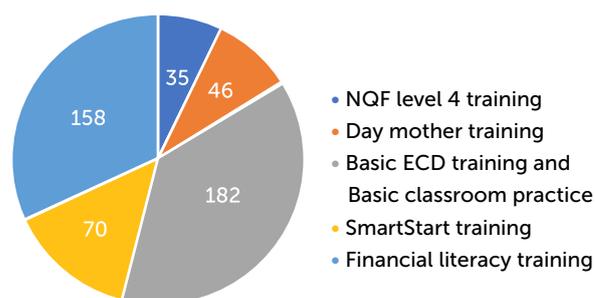


Figure 1.1 Training of practitioners

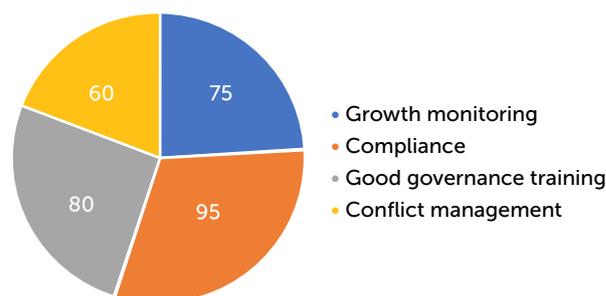


Figure 1.2: Training of practitioners in the following programmes

a) NQF Level 4 training

The Trust contracted Ntataise Trust to train 35 practitioners on the NQF Level 4 programme that integrates theory with on-site support and mentoring, and is designed to meet the needs of practitioners working in ECD centres. The qualification consists of three components; three core knowledge modules, three fundamental learning competency modules and four elective modules. The enrolled ECD practitioners attend 102 days of training over an 18 to 20-month period. The contact training sessions are supported by on-site visits, enrichment workshops, study groups and specially designed assessments to support practitioners to implement in practice, what they learn in theory.

To date the practitioners attended 11 months of training and the remaining 7 months of training will be finalised in the 2020/2021 financial year. There are 34 remaining practitioners in the programme.



NQF level 4 training

b) Day mother training

The Trust appointed Early Care Foundation to screen and train 46 day mothers. The programme comprised of four modules presented over a three-week period, and included 4-8 days of on-site support visits to the centres after each training module. The objectives of the programme are:

- To facilitate compliance with the legislation stipulated in the Children's Act 38 of 2005;
- To improve the ECD knowledge and skills of the selected child minders or ECD practitioners; and
- To enable the child minders to run a sustainable ECD service to the local community.

c) Basic ECD training and classroom practice

The Trust contracted Zakheni Early Learning Consultancy to train 60 ECD practitioners in Nellmapius on basic ECD. The aim of the training was to train practitioners on two modules of the thematic model of learning as well as provide the practitioners with basic knowledge and skills to facilitate quality learning in ECD. In Msinga and Nquthu the basic classroom practice was provided to 122 practitioners in partnership with National Development Agency (NDA).

d) SmartStart

Seventy (70) practitioners in Msinga were trained on SmartStart over a period of 10 days. The programme was aimed at equipping playgroup facilitators with relevant skills to facilitate learning through play according to the SmartStart package.

e) Financial literacy training

Assupol Life's Consumer Education Department trained 75 ECD principals on financial literacy. The aim of this training programme was to equip principals with basic financial literacy to enable them to manage their finances. The five-day programme covered the following topics:

1. Personal financial management: personal financial literacy for principals;
2. Business growth: learning the basics of business;
3. Practical business improvement plan development: implementing identified business opportunities; and
4. Business strategy: application.

In Msinga 83 playgroup facilitators were trained on financial literacy through the partnership with SmartStart.



Financial literacy training

f) Toy librarian training

Four toy librarians were trained in Msinga and Nquthu. The aim of the programme was to equip the toy librarians with the knowledge to use and manage toys, games and puzzles of an educational nature that provide pleasurable learning experiences and promote child development in language, numeracy, social interaction, muscle development, imagination and creativity.

g) Growth monitoring

Seventy-five (75) practitioners in Msinga and Nquthu were trained on growth monitoring through the partnership with the Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal. The aim of the training was to equip practitioners with growth monitoring measures and nutrition guidelines for ECD.

h) Compliance

Nine-five (95) practitioners in Msinga and Nquthu were trained on compliance with norms and standards for partial care facilities contemplated in section 79 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. The aim of the programme was to equip practitioners with knowledge on how to legally operate within the required norms and standards.

i) Good governance training

Nonprofit organisations (NPOs) are expected, in terms of the Nonprofit Organisations Act 71 of 1997, to maintain adequate standards of governance, transparency and public accountability. It is for this reason that through the partnership with the National Development Agency, 80 principals and practitioners in Msinga and Nquthu were trained on a three-day programme on governance. This programme equipped attendees with knowledge on the roles of the Board of Trustees and the management committees in their respective centres, as well as the importance of compliance and reporting as determined in the Act. Through these training programmes, principals and practitioners were able to obtain, improve and retain the skills, knowledge and tools to do their jobs competently.

j) Conflict management

Sixty (60) practitioners and principals in Msinga and Nquthu were trained on conflict management. The aim of this training programme was to equip the participants with knowledge and skills to manage conflict amongst various parties (including staff and/or parents).

Provision of learning materials

There were 106 packs of educational learning materials that were provided to ECD centres in Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu, to facilitate stimulation of children. The educational learning materials made provision for different age groups within ECD and included playmats for children.



Materials distributed

Provision of nutrition

We contracted JAM South Africa (JAMSA) to provide Corn Soya Sugar (CSS+) porridge to children in the 41 ECD centres that were not funded by government. The CSS+ porridge contains 75% of the daily nutrients required by each child. Through the relationship and partnership established with JAMSA from previous years, JAMSA provided additional nutritious porridge, at their own cost, to 40 ECD centres in Msinga and Nquthu for a period of seven months, as well as to 13 day mothers in Nellmapius for a period of four months. In total 3,535 children (from 81 ECD centres and 13 day mothers) were fed CSS+ porridge. JAMSA provided training to ECD centres and day mothers to ensure that the porridge was prepared and stored in a clean and hygienic environment. Strict administrative processes were also followed by the ECD centres to ensure effective monitoring of the feeding of children by the Trust and JAMSA.

Through the partnership with Community Works Programme (CWP) of the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG), we facilitated the establishment of food gardens in each of the ECD centres in Msinga and Nquthu. These food gardens also encourage healthy eating in ECD centres.

Challenges

The working conditions of practitioners are not regulated, and this continues to be the major challenge in the retention of practitioners. Once they are trained, some practitioners look for better opportunities and leave their respective ECD centres. This creates a skills gap in the particular ECD facility, which requires that training be provided to new practitioners who are employed to fill vacancies.

The national ECD Policy emphasises the parental role required in the care that is necessary for the physical and psychological well-being of children. There is also evidence that vulnerable backgrounds can have a negative effect on the learning and development of a child.

Feedback from the principals in the ECD centres that we support, indicates that not enough parents support or are involved in the development of their children. This becomes a challenge in extending

what a child learns from school, into their home. Studies also show that parental and family involvement in early childhood education will help improve learning outcomes for children, by ensuring that they have all the support they need to succeed. Part of this process involves detailed documentation, so that teachers and parents have a complete picture of how a child is progressing and can act accordingly (*Hi Mama Early Childhood Education Blog by Ron Spreeuwenberg, January 10, 2019*).

Facilitating compliance with registration, health and safety requirements

The Children's Act 38 of 2005 defines safety and quality norms and standards for ECD programmes. The national ECD policy further expands on these by making provision for the registration, control of safety and quality of services by child-minders, including ECD providers. In respect of ECD infrastructure, the policy seeks to ensure that there are secure, safe and accessible play, recreational, library and cultural facilities that are both inclusive and age and development stage-appropriate in all communities, especially poor communities and under-served rural and informal urban communities.

Many children in South Africa that attend informal ECD centres, face significant health and safety risks, including poor infrastructure and facilities, inadequate sanitation and access to clean water, lack of boundary fencing, as well as poor building ventilation and insulation (*The Housing Development Agency 2014*).

The biggest challenge faced by ECD centres is in their registration as a partial care facility. These centres struggle to secure land use rights to operate a partial care facility, particularly where the centre is situated on traditional land or unproclaimed land. This is because occupants are often unable to provide a title deed or lease for properties on these types of land. The process of applying for land use rights can be costly and is often technically difficult, requiring assistance from a town planner or consultant. In order for ECD centres to achieve this status of compliance, they need to meet a number of municipal and DSD requirements including national norms and standards for partial care facilities contemplated in section 79 of the Children's Act and published in the consolidated regulations pertaining the Children's Act, 2005 (DSD, 2010). The majority of informal ECD centres continue to experience difficulties in complying with these norms and standards, leaving them to operate informally and not funded by government.

Barriers to registration for ECD centres in informal settlements include:

- Lack of appropriate building plans;
- Existing structures that don't meet environmental health requirements;
- Lack of knowledge of partial care registration requirements by ECD centres; and
- Insufficient ECD skills and inability to submit adequate documents.

Compliance with registration is a way of ensuring the best interests of the children are provided for at all child care centres. Registration is therefore compulsory.

Through infrastructure improvement, we facilitate and support ECD centres to meet the norms and standards required to enable them to be registered with the DSD, and eventually get funding from government.

Successes

Administrative systems were developed to manage processes of sourcing, engaging and contracting with service providers who hold various levels of technical skills on infrastructure development—taking lessons from the Trust’s previous three years of experience into consideration.

In Msinga and Nquthu we engaged in community mobilisation to identify ECD centres that would benefit from assistance for compliance and infrastructure improvement. This is important in enabling interested and affected stakeholders in a community to actively participate in identifying and defining challenges. It also affords community members the opportunity to be part of the solutions developed for their children. From this process, 41 ECD centres were identified for the project that will be implemented in the next financial year. Ceilings were installed at 15 ECD centres that were part of the infrastructure improvement project for 40 ECD centres in Msinga and Nquthu during the previous financial year. A further need to install ceilings was identified during the course of the year—the remaining 25 ceilings will be installed in the next financial year.

In Nellmapius, three ECD centres were renovated to meet compliance standards, and one new ECD centre was built. Registration of the centres will be finalised in the next financial year. Through the renovation of the three centres and the building of the new centre in Nellmapius, overcrowding challenges and health and safety challenges identified during the 2016 audit have been addressed, and improved access has been provided for children with disabilities.

In Nellmapius 65 ECD centres, including 46 day mothers, were provided with first aid kits and fire extinguishers in compliance with health and safety regulations.



New centre built: Phenyo Christian College, Nellmapius



Msinga awareness campaign



Nquthu awareness campaign

Challenges

Registration is a lengthy and tedious process that is exacerbated by bureaucratic municipal processes. As a result, most of the informal centres are struggling to reach a point of registration. In a study of conditional registration framework (CRF) conducted by the Network Action Group (NAG), findings indicated that 52% of unregistered centres are unlikely to achieve bronze level, which is the lowest level towards full registration, without infrastructure support. The delays in the infrastructure improvement processes resulted in the completion of 44 of 48 ECD centres being deferred to the next financial year.

Governance, partnerships, and stakeholder relations

The national ECD policy provides a framework for regulation of the necessary partnerships to ensure non-government organisations (both profit and nonprofit), support the realisation of government’s national integrated childhood commitments, and that all services provided comply with government commitments. It further stipulates that “all responsible role-players are required to commit to, and align their policies, laws, programmes and budgets to achieve the common national integrated ECD vision, goals and objectives.” The realisation of this commitment requires that role-players collaborate and partner to achieve the dream of universal access by 2030. It is for this reason that the Trust has put partnerships as one of its strategic thrusts.

Stakeholders on the other hand, have great influence in the decision-making processes. They ensure that the organisation's work environment remains dynamic, stimulating, and rewarding and there are good working conditions available in the organisation, so that the organisation can perform well. Stakeholders increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and drive innovation.

Successes

Assupol Community Trust has the following partnerships and stakeholders:

- Nquthu Local Municipality
- Msinga Local Municipality
- City of Tshwane
- uMzinyathi District Municipality
- National Development Agency
- Insika Foundation
- SmartStart
- LETCEE
- Department of Health
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Basic Education
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Hollard Foundation and SmartStart ECD Consortium partners: DG Murray, Standard Bank, FNB, the Elma Philanthropies Services (Africa) (Pty) Ltd, the Firstrand Foundation, Yellowwoods Social Investments NPC, Hollard Trust, Tshikululu Social Investments, Ilifa Labantwana, Kago Ya Bana, Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation, Kago Ya Bana ECD Enterprise Incubator, Innovation Edge, and SmartStart Early Learning NPC.
- The uMzinyathi District Municipality as well as Msinga and Nquthu local municipalities have continued to champion and support the ECD programme, ensuring that it always finds a space in their integrated development programmes (IDPs) and is represented at district and local task team meetings and council meetings.

During the year under review the Board visited Msinga to strengthen relations with the stakeholders in Msinga and Nquthu, and to oversee and monitor progress on the implementation of the project in KwaZulu-Natal.



Board visit

The success of the Trust is attributed to collaboration with various partners that have shared information, altered activities and shared resources for attainment of a mutual benefit and common purpose.

Examples of these partnerships, amongst others, include:

- JAMSA through the provision of nutrition;
- Insika Foundation and CWP in the establishment of food gardens;
- National Development Agency through the training of practitioners;
- SmartStart through the training of playgroup facilitators;
- Department of Health through the provision of training on growth monitoring and on nutrition in the ECD centres as well as visiting ECD centres for immunisation; and
- the ECD Consortium for unblocking access to quality ECD services through supporting the Department of Social Development in implementing the ECD Conditional Grant.

To improve governance and facilitate decision-making, the Trust established various structures including the following:

Local ECD Committee (LEC)

The LEC serves as a governing body that represents the voice of the communities of Nellmapius, Msinga and Nquthu, on the Trust's Board. They comprise of six members in each of the three areas and they participate in the Trust's annual general meetings where they have voting powers. These committees have been very active in the ECD activities in their respective areas.



Local ECD Committee from Nellmapius, Nquthu and Msinga who attended the 2019 AGM

Other ECD structures

During the period under review, the Trust attended 18 meetings as part of its continued support of and participation in local ECD structures. These include ECD forums, project steering committees, as well as interdepartmental technical task teams comprising of government and non-governmental representatives.

Challenges

There are still major challenges in institutionalising the Trust's partnership and stakeholder relations efforts with the City of Tshwane. However, the Trust is optimistic that this state of affairs will improve with this municipality in the near future.

Advocate for models that accelerate universal access to ECD

Over the past three years, the Trust gained valuable experience from lessons learned, that could be replicated and upscaled towards accelerating universal access to ECD. These lessons have been documented and translated into a Trust Delivery Model which outlines generic tasks to be undertaken to ensure seamless project planning and execution. It is the aim of the Trust to advocate this model. During the period under review the Trust conducted seven advocacy campaigns to promote models that accelerate universal access to ECD.

The Trust also used an opportunity to present this model at various platforms in both KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng—two provincial departments expressed interest in adopting this model.

As former president Nelson Mandela said at the launch of the *Kick Polio Out of Africa* campaign on 2 August 1996, "Africa is renowned for its beauty, its natural heritage and prolific resources—but equally, the image of its suffering children haunts the conscience of our continent and the world." While we are proud of the progress and contribution that the Trust has made thus far to the communities in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal in spite of various challenges, we remain committed and motivated to make a difference in the lives of South Africa's children.



YES learners taking active part in the ECD awareness campaign



City of Tshwane CWP members at the Jungle Bells Day Care



YES learners taking active part in the ECD awareness campaign



YES youth feeding children at Snozwelo Creche



Testimonials



Testimonials from Youth Employment Service (YES) programme

Thulisile Nguni: operating as an ECD assistant at Glenview Day Care

07 May 2020
Dear Madam

I was unemployed and not schooling, I was depressed and had nothing to do everyday. ACT gave me purpose and control over my life. I became independent and full of life. I now had a reason to wake up in the morning and be useful.

Through the YES programme I've learned that you have to make opportunities for yourself. Take control and have a positive attitude. Youth is very important in our communities because they are our future. I've learned how to make a Curriculum Vitae, how to dress up for interviews, what is expected of me at work, how to behave at work, professionalism, my strengths, my weaknesses, my abilities, my responsibilities, etc. I can now independently look for a job because I've learned how and what is expected of me.

Through the ACT programme I was given an opportunity to work at ECD centers and learn what ECD is and what it means. I've always wanted to be a teacher and through ACT I've experienced how it is like to be one. I have learned not only about children but also what it takes to own an ECD center. The challenges principals and teachers experience and how

to overcome them. Through this programme I've grown more interest in becoming a teacher/owner of an ECD center. I have learned also how to manage/understand kids of different ages and that they are not the same. The answer to any kid is patience and lots of love.

I am so thankful to ACT and YES programmers for this opportunity and they will not go in vain. I managed to make friends through this programme. I am thankful to our project manager Miss Mmemme Sibanda and Nokuthula Myeni for being patient with us and showing us the way when we were out of order. I would like to thank all the principals and teachers I've worked with for different lessons and experiences, our chair Mme Thandie and all my colleagues.

I will never forget this experience and will forever be grateful.
Yours faithfully
Nguni Thulisile

Ntebaleng Gonane: operating as a trained Day Mother

Dear Assupol Community Trust Team

My name is Ntebaleng Gonane, being an Act learner has really enriched my life immensely.

The amount of effort that the Act team has put into each and everyone, thank you for challenging us and encouraging us to be the best we can be, it might have been tough on us at some stage like the time we had to take in children and take care of them for free in January but I learned a lot, I learned the importance of being a team player and sacrificing my needs for others, and also lending a helping hand how to connect with children from different family backgrounds.

The Act team is one amazing team with people who are full of passion, motivation and vision, (not to mention the experience and advice they have to offer). They held us by the hand, through thick and thin with love, care and patience, it would have not been possible without your encouragement and support. Your hard work and dedication have brought a positive change in my life.

I have gained a lot from this learnership, beyond my expectation, I've been challenged to be goal orientated, to inspire and motivate, most importantly to follow my passion. The Day mother programme and the Yes for youth programme are very helpful, inspiring and motivational. I am so grateful for the opportunity you have given me I have a great highlight about this programme.

Yours Faithfully
Ntebaleng Gonane

Zinhle Zikalala: operating as an ECD Assistant

Testimonial on the yes program

Life has definitely changed after I got accepted on the yes program, I was able to help at home with groceries and being able to help with my mother medicine. I also was able to find myself again because I was already drowning in depression of spending another year doing the same thing. I was able to see the light again at the end of the tunnel. The program just made me realize my strength and weaknesses and also, I have learned a lot from the program modules about money management, how to act at a work place, my expectations and my supervisor expectations of me. Having a growth mindset and setting realistic goals that I can archive. My supervisor is just the best, she is understanding and also caring but strict and it was great learning from her and also working with her.

The program just created employment and left me looking forward to the future really hope that it continue to help around communities and create the next generation entrepreneurs.



Dipuo Morwathsethla: operating as a trained day mother

Dear Yes Program and ACT

I am writing to you to express my sincere appreciation to the Yes Program and Assupol Community Trust for providing me with the opportunity to uplift my skills and knowledge.

I became aware of the opportunity to do the learnership when I was told by a day care principal. This is something that we as the community greatly appreciate, as we do not all have access to internet and for many of us, this is the only way we would ever find out about these types of opportunities. This is a clear sign that Assupol cares about our community and wants the youth to succeed in life.

At first, I was sceptical about it and did not think I will fall in love with ECD. It turned out to be the best challenge I had needed in my life. It was a year opportunity but I have benefited from the experience for life. I have now become a better person and know more about children and mostly I have learned a lot about myself.

I would also love to give thanks for Mrs Sibanda for her daily motivation and guidance. It has shaped us and gave us growth. It was a rocky year as we had some ups and downs but it was all worth it.

The stipend made a huge difference to some of us as it was also helping our household. We were able to assist our parents and take care of our needs without having to depend on anyone.

The Yes Program is the best as it teaches you about yourself and things you didn't know about yourself. I have learned about my weakness and strength. I have benefited a lot mentally, socially and academically from the program. I never thought I could work with kids and enjoy every bit of it. If given the opportunity to do it again or work under the ACT team I would do it wholeheartedly.

May both companies continue to make a difference in other youth lives as they did to mine.

Today I can proudly call myself a practitioner and a future business young woman in the ECD field.

I thank you Dr Nhlapo, Mrs Sibanda and Yes Program for the opportunity given. May the good Lord keep blessing you with more life so that you can carry on making a difference in the country and the lives of the Youth.

Phambili ngo Yes!!!
Phambili ngo ACT!!!

Thank You

Dipuo Morwathsethla

Testimonials from ECD centres that benefitted from training and infrastructure development

HUNADI DAY CARE



REGISTRATION NO: 060 311-NPO

ADDRESS:
1018 Aces Street, Nellmapius Ext 3, Pretoria 0122

Cell: 073 428 7326 / 072 701 3422

Fax: 086 541 9633

Email: mamukulatane@gmail.com

The boars chairperson
Assupol Community Trust
Summit Place Office Park
221 Garsfontein Road
Menlyn
Pretoria
0181

Attention Ms Ned Ntjantja
Madam/Sir

Letter of appreciation

We as Hunadi Day Care would like to thank Assupol community trust for the great work they done to us.

We were offered trainings

- I. ECD Growth monitoring, with scales measuring tape, measuring chat and food parcels.
- II. Basic training for Teachers and toys
- III. Level 4 training
- IV. Financial management and some of our parents benefitted from these training.

Our centre was renovated with new roof, 3x aluminium sliding doors, 3xtrellidor security gates, 3 sliding windows, ceiling and a play mats for two classes.

Our centre now is one of our model centre and the community is very happy for the good work you have done.

Thank you very much Assupol Community trust may the almighty God bless.
You may prosper as you continue spreading the love to the nation.

Ms
Signature:

Mrs , Ms Latane

AGAPE TIME TO LEARN PRE-SCHOOL



(VGKSA NELLMAPIUS URCSA)

REGISTRATION NUMBER 126-219 NPO.

ANKING DETAILS: ABSA SILVERTON , ACCOUNT NO. 92 2282 0077
O BOX 365
ENNEBOOM 0160

196 LOVE DRIVE, EXT 4
NELLMAPIUS

The Project Manager
Assupol Community Trust

TOKEN OF APPRECIATION

Dear Sir/ Madam

We hereby wish to express our gratitude and appreciations for the good work and support you are doing for our Children's Centre, Agape Time To Learn Pre School.

By this letter we would like to thank you once more and again.

Thank you for supporting us with the Electrical appliances such as the electrical stove, refrigerator and TV set. Also with the children's developmental milestones and growth monitoring, presently the level 4 training, registrations with the Department of Social Development, the beautiful colourful mats and the coming building project.

Keep up the good work.

Yours in His service.

Rev. Louis Thobela
084 368 7176

DS. LOUIS THOBELA
084 368 7176

MAKWENA MPHAHLELE
073 2606 930



Phenyo Christian College

"Strong enough to make holes in the rock are tiny drops of water that persist to fall. Persistence is the attitude that breaks down mountains one rock at a time"-By Israelmore Ayivor.

The vision of Phenyo Christian College is to be the Centre of holistic quality education. We are dreaming to become Independent Christian School. We shall persist in pushing until the dream is realised. We shall break down the mountains by one rock at a time.

Partnership with ACT

Through the partnership the following were benefited:

- Supervisor and practitioners were trained on classroom practices, financial and organizational management, Level 4.
- Provision of playmates and toys.
- New building



We believe that soon we will be ready to be registered with Social department. On behalf of Phenyo Christian College family, I would like to thank Assupol Community Trust for such amazing help. May God bless Assupol Community Trust to continue developing ECD in different communities.

"Don't underestimate small humble beginnings, because sometimes they can turn out to be the greatest success stories"-Jeanette Coron.

Best regards
Catherine Boshelo

Testimonials from day mothers

Maria Laka First group of trained day mothers

I am a 57 years old day mother. I've learned that it is never too late to learn. Education is not for young only, even the elders can achieve they goals. Being a day mother has made me a better person. I am not only a granny who looks after kids however I know how to stimulate them, I am more educated on how to stimulate and interact with the toddler's. I am able to look after more than 3 children without an assistant. I stand tall and very proudly. I am an educated and more experienced day mother.

Nkele Nhlapo Second group of trained day mothers

I always wanted to open my ecd center but, i didn't know how to start and were to go and what i needed to do. Then came assupol and gave their biggest contribution training and information

Their skills of training builded me to be a day mother i dreamed to become, now i know how to plan,organise and conduct activities, to help children develop a wide variety of skills including speech reading, writing, motor skills, social interaction play ways educational material, safeguard the well being of children

I thank them for the turnaround they brought into my life
Yours: Nkele Nhlapo



I Sylvia Skosana a qualified Day mother because of ASSUPOL has offered me an opportunity to be trained and skilled on how to be a professional day mother today.

I have learned a lot from the training programs and workshops that ASSUPOL presented to us, here are the below key areas of what I have learned;

- The brain of the child (children) development from the age of 0 years
- Not all children have access to go to ECD

I am currently my own day mother program and ASSUPOL has lifted me in growth, for example; I did not have outdoor material for kids to play with but ASSUPOL gave me a training and stipend. The stipend and knowledge managed to buy the centre the outdoor materials for kids.

All the workshop and training programs that ASSUPOL help me with as a day mother, has made me realise that I am ready to grow from day mother and beyond or to the next level phase of the program in ECD and kids development.

Thanks,

You're Sincere

Sylvia Nomthandazo Skosana



Report of the board of trustees for the year ended 29 February 2020

The Assupol Community Trust presents its unaudited condensed financial results for the year ended 29 February 2020.

1. Nature of business

The principal objective of the Trust is to benefit designated communities through public benefit activities in a non-profit manner and for an altruistic or philanthropic purpose. The Commissioner of the South African Revenue Services approved the Trust as a public benefit organisation in terms of paragraph 4(h) of Part 1 of the Ninth Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1962, with the specific purpose of providing educare or early childhood development (ECD) services for pre-school children.

2. Review of operations and financial position

During the financial year, the main activities of the Trust revolved around the execution of ECD projects approved by the Trustees. Resources to the value of R10.6m were utilised on specific projects, including:

- (a) uMzinyathi District Municipality: The Trust is providing 40 ECD sites in the Nquthu region and 41 sites in the Msinga region with the necessary infrastructural and safety improvements with the view to conform these facilities to the standards of the Department of Social Development and obtain registration as ECD centres.
- (b) City of Tshwane: The Trust is providing similar services to 78 ECD sites in the Nellmapius region in City of Tshwane.

3. Trustees

The Trustees of the Trust are:

	Date of appointment	Date of resignation
T Muranda (Independent trustee) (Chairperson)	26 August 2014	-
TBN Ned (Independent trustee) *	26 August 2014	20 April 2020
TSS Malatji (Independent trustee)	26 August 2014	-
MB Mokwena-Halala (trustee)	22 November 2010	-
NC Skeepers (Independent trustee)	31 December 2017	-

* TBN Ned was the chairperson until her resignation. T Muranda was appointed as the chairperson on 29 May 2020.

4. Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers are the independent auditors of the Trust and will continue in office in accordance with clause 12.1 of the Trust Deed.

5. Material events after year end

The significant impact on the South African markets and economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic became evident around the week ending 13 March 2020. The country went into full lockdown (level 5) for the whole of April. The Trust's projects and other activities were unable to continue during this period due to the restrictions put in place by the South African government. The lockdown has been partially lifted since the beginning of May and work on some of the projects resumed.

The reaction seen in the initial phases of the pandemic started to stabilise to some extent but conditions in both the economy and the ECD environment remain uncertain. At the date of approving the annual financial statements, the value of the Trust's investments reduced by R34.4m.

In response to the outbreak and the lockdown, the Trustees adjusted the 2020/21 workplan and allocated a budget of R2.7m for the following items:

- To assist the ECD centres with the provision of services in line with government's health and safety guidelines;
- The provision of stipends to day mothers and practitioners; and
- To support the ECD centres with operational costs.

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 29 February 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		R	R
Income resources	2	10 277 407	93 651 517
Resources utilised			
Projects	3	(10 589 324)	(12 856 743)
Operating and administration expenses		(1 700 904)	(696 171)
(Loss) / surplus for the year		(2 012 821)	80 098 603

Statement of financial position

as at 29 February 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		R	R
Assets			
Equipment		865 636	181 853
Intangible assets - software		2 938	5 551
Investments held at fair value through profit / loss	4	325 948 657	328 193 884
Accounts receivables		355 861	4 609
Cash and cash equivalents		9 832 088	11 479 148
Total assets		337 005 180	339 865 045
Reserves			
Accumulated funds		336 394 325	338 407 146
Liabilities			
Accounts payable		610 855	957 899
Provisions		-	500 000
		610 855	1 457 899
Total reserves and liabilities		337 005 180	339 865 045

Statement of changes in reserves

for the year ended 29 February 2020

	Accumulated Funds
	R
Balance at 01 March 2018	258 308 543
Surplus for the year	80 098 603
Balance at 01 March 2019	338 407 146
Loss for the year	(2 012 821)
Balance at 29 February 2020	336 394 325

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 29 February 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
Cash flow from operating activities			
Cash utilised in operations		(13 341 999)	(13 264 068)
Interest income		878 705	1 250 678
Net cash flow from operating activities		(12 463 295)	(12 013 390)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Acquisition of equipment		(833 023)	(210 089)
Disposal of equipment		7 901	-
Acquisition of intangible assets - software		-	(3 900)
Acquisition of investments	4	(130 700 000)	(92 300 000)
Disposal of investments in Assupol Holdings	4	-	62 010 000
Disposal of investments in unit trusts		125 698 356	10 800 000
Dividend income	2	16 643 000	17 952 000
Net cash flow from investing activities		10 816 235	(1 751 989)
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(1 647 060)	(13 765 379)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		11 479 148	25 244 527
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		9 832 088	11 479 148

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 29 February 2020

1. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The Trust is registered with the Master of the High Court under the Trust Property Control Act, 1988, and as such no part of its income or property shall be transferred to its Trustees directly or indirectly that is not in line with the Trust deed. Consequently all reserves of the Trust may only be applied in line with the purpose of the Trust.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis based on the Trust's specific basis of accounting. The accounting policies are consistent with the prior year.

The condensed financial results have not been audited.

The condensed report does not include all the notes normally included in the annual financial statements. Accordingly, this report is to be read in conjunction with the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2020.

2. Income resources

	2020	2019
	R	R
Dividend income	16 643 000	17 952 000
Accrued dividend income	398 822	176 837
Profit on sale of Asset	2 574	-
Profit on sale of investment in Assupol Holdings Ltd	-	13 260 000
Interest income	6 758 991	7 308 145
Accrued interest income	1 106 239	2 416 500
Fair value adjustments on investments	(14 632 219)	52 538 035
	<u>10 277 407</u>	<u>93 651 517</u>

2020 2019

R R

3. Projects

Specific projects:

uMzinyathi District Municipality - Nquthu and Msinga 2 242 391 9 045 191

City of Tshwane - Nellmapius 4 592 847 1 516 125

Operating expenses in respect of projects:

Consulting fees 119 755 107 880

Employee cost 2 985 952 1 986 200

Day mother expenses 309 212 -

Travel and subsistence 335 267 201 347

Legal fees 3 900 -

10 589 324 12 856 743

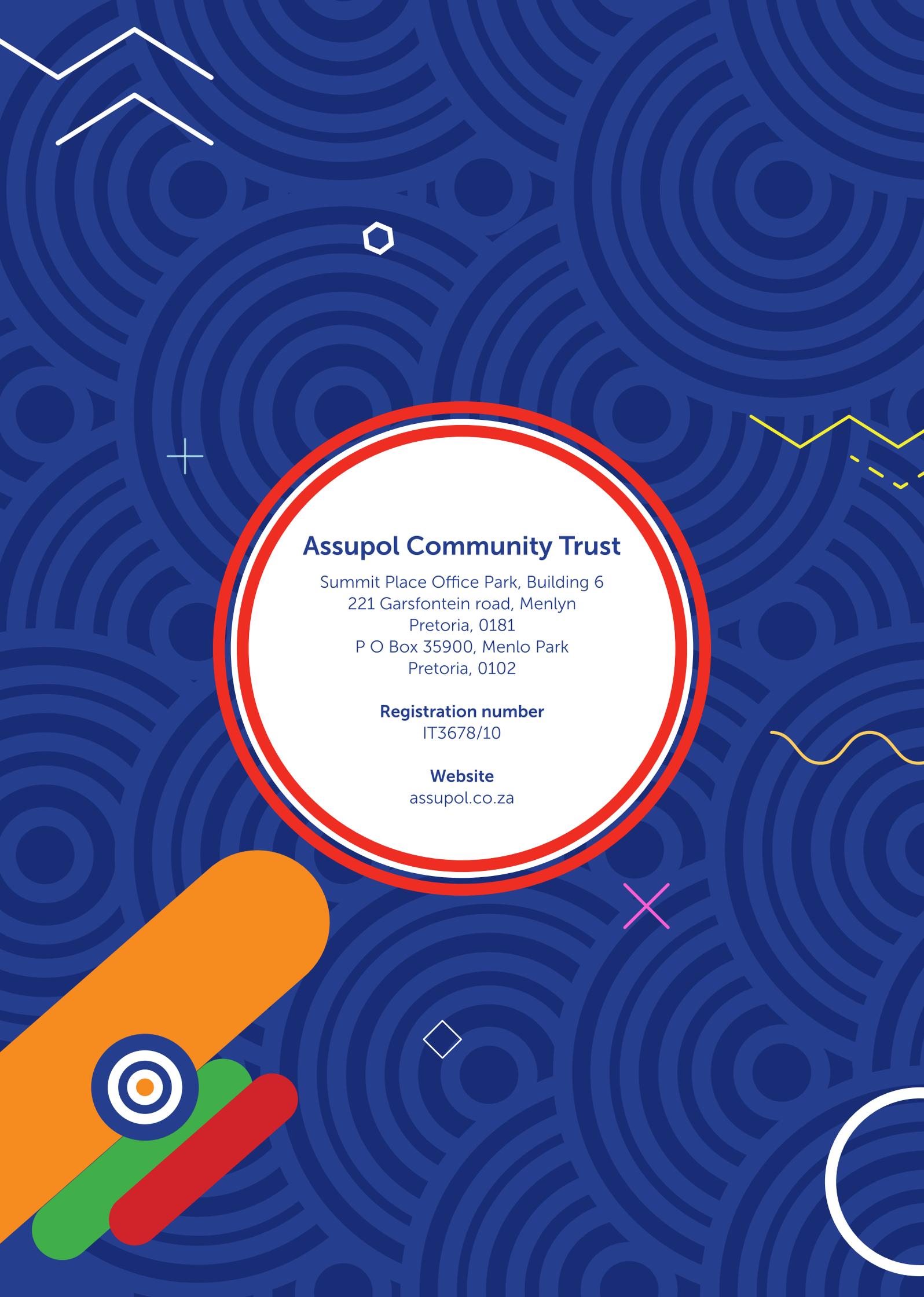
4. Investments

Held at fair value through profit and loss

Investment in Assupol Holdings Limited 177 650 000 192 610 000

Unit trusts 148 298 657 135 583 884

Total investments 325 948 657 328 193 884



Assupol Community Trust

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