

# Annual Report 2018 South Africa



PROJECT PLAYGROUND  
NPO 100-676  
TRUST IT57/2011  
LEVEL 1 B-BEE  
SECTION 18A





Project Playground is a Not For Profit organisation operating in areas where children and youth are at risk of exclusion. The idea of starting an organisation was born almost a decade ago when Frida Vesterberg and Princess Sofia of Sweden (then Hellqvist) met. Their shared interest in and work for children's rights culminated in what today is a global organisation with operations in both Sweden and South Africa, engaging almost 1000 children and youth in holistic activities aimed at supporting the individual on his or her journey through childhood and adolescence.

The HQ in Stockholm functions as the fundraising arm of Project Playground and has historically funded all operations.

Since its inception, Project Playground has been the supporting pillar of thousands of children and continues to be a driving force in the strive toward equal opportunities for every child regardless of gender, ability, religion or race.



# Vision & Mission



Our Vision is a world where every child and youth grow up with a belief in the future and the possibility to positively impact their own lives

With a holistic approach we work using educational, recreational and educational programs to empower children and youth. One by one. Project Playground works to reinforce their personal and social development through support programs and organised activity, thereby contributing to a sustainable future

**PROJECT  
PLAYGROUND**



A leading organisation in financial management, leadership, and social work, with qualitative programs that heal, develop, educate, and motivate participants

Amongst the 44 staff members are in-house social workers, an occupational therapist and four NLP life coaches ensuring quality services, and maximised well-being and development amongst participants and staff

Successfully designed and implemented our own bespoke Child Protection Policy; guiding staff to create the safest possible environment for our participants

Received the Western Cape Cultural Award for best arts facilitator in the after school sector

Finalist in the Western Cape Sports and Culture Awards for sports coaching excellence in the after school sector

# Project Playground Value Proposition



## PROJECT PLAYGROUND'S WORK INCLUDE

Play on Wheels; the division which caters for children that cannot be accommodated in a school setting due to the gravity of their disability

Play and Learn; the division which caters for after school participants engaging them in sports and recreational activities

Social Work Department; provides family and individual therapy to those participants in need of intervention

**786**

participants  
registered in 2018  
compared to 702 in  
2017

Annual Report 2018

**740**

participants  
participated in  
activities throughout  
the year



We are extremely privileged to have so many passionate and committed staff, volunteers, supporters and trustees. These group of people work tirelessly to help the children, young people and families who rely on the services that PPG provides. Their life-saving and life-hanging work has made possible to provide care and support to children in the most difficult circumstances and underserved communities. This has helped to improve lives by delivering vital services in education, nutrition, livelihood support and protection to thousands of children and their families.

During 2018 I had the privilege of being an Acting Chairperson of the PPG's South African Board. We achieved a number of significant milestones in 2018, which included by not limited to a cultural exchange collaboration with Passalen a Swedish Organization consisting of individuals living with disability, our soccer team participating in the Gothia Cup for the 5th consecutive year and one highlight being the visit by Her Majesty the Queen of Sweden. This was underpinned by another good year of fundraising in a challenging environment.

# *Chairman's Message*

As the board we have a responsibility to reassure the funders, supporters and the wider public about our values and practices. The Board is mindful of the need to provide clear financial reports. In 2018 we paid attention to all aspects of our financial reporting and ensured that we remain in line with both the latest regulatory requirements and best practice. We continually seek to further strengthen our governance and operational procedures so that we adopt best practice in all of our activities at all times.

We would like to thank everyone who is involved and has given their support to PPG, whether it be their time, money, skills and actions in order to have children whose lives are better and whose futures are brighter. This is a shared endeavour that saves lives and gives hope to children in our communities that we should all be proud of.

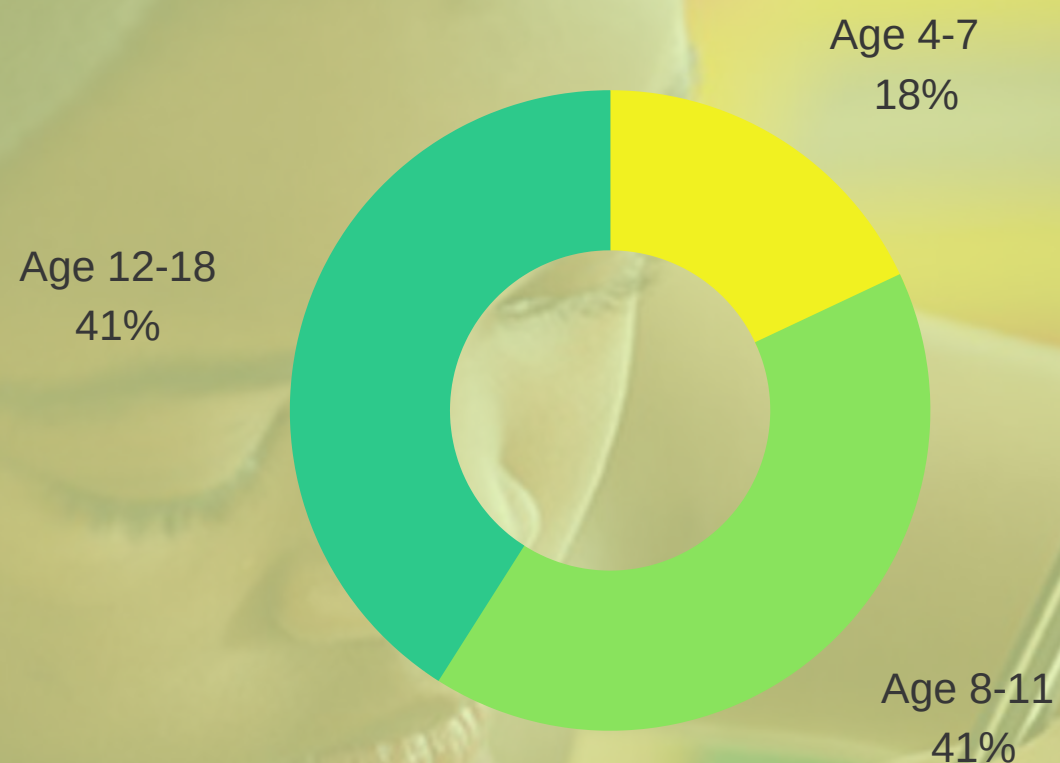
Vuyi Skiti (Interim Chair)





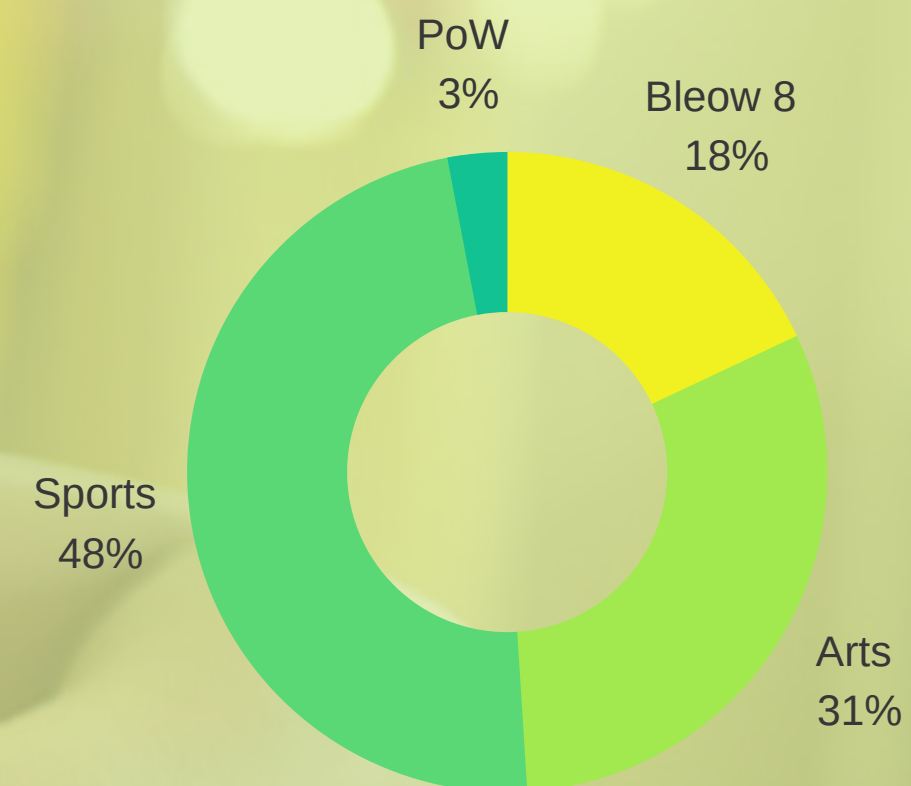
BY GENDER

GIRLS 361  
BOYS 379



BY AGE GROUPS

AGE 4-7 132  
AGE 8-11 306  
AGE 12-18 302



BY DIVISIONS

BELOW 8 129  
ARTS 304  
SPORTS 283  
POW 24

# Demographics





# 1139

**Home Visits**

**were done by facilitators in 2018**

**Neglect, absent fathers and behavioural issues**

were the most common reasons for psychosocial interventions

# 86%

of the children that received psychosocial assistance displayed improved physical and emotional well-being

# 626

Children received psychosocial support by our social workers





# *Anathi's Story*

Anathi was registered with Project Playground by his grandmother, and as he was six years old he was put in the Below 8 class. Displaying severe anger and behavioural challenges, he was referred to our social worker. We learned that this burdened little soul had not only been abandoned by an alcoholic mother, but left in a black bin bag at the age of 9 months to die.

Anathi had then spent his first four years at a centre for abandoned children, cared for by over-worked, underpaid, shift employees who possibly did their best, but an orphanage is not the ideal setting for any child to grow up in.

Project Playground is working with Anathi, his foster mom, school teachers and facilitators to create a safety net where he can feel loved and safe, we are trying to heal the incredibly deep wounds inflicted on him as a baby so that he can develop into a healthy, happy little boy.





## *Siphe's Story*

Siphe is one of our participants at Play on Wheels Gugulethu centre. He has a rare condition which causes progressive intellectual and physical disability. When he started at Project Playground, he struggled with severe anxiety. This, coupled with inconsistent behaviour management at home, meant that Siphe struggled with many behaviour problems.

With constant work from the edu-carers at Play on Wheels, and several interventions with his mother and grandmothers, Siphe has made remarkable progress. He is following basic instructions, and responds to questions. In the last month, Siphe has started to allow his caregiver to touch him, so that we may massage his stiff hands and help him to interact with others in class.



“PPG was there for me when I lost my mother, they provided a social worker to help me accept my mother’s passing and I could move on with my life”

Qhamani Mgebisa

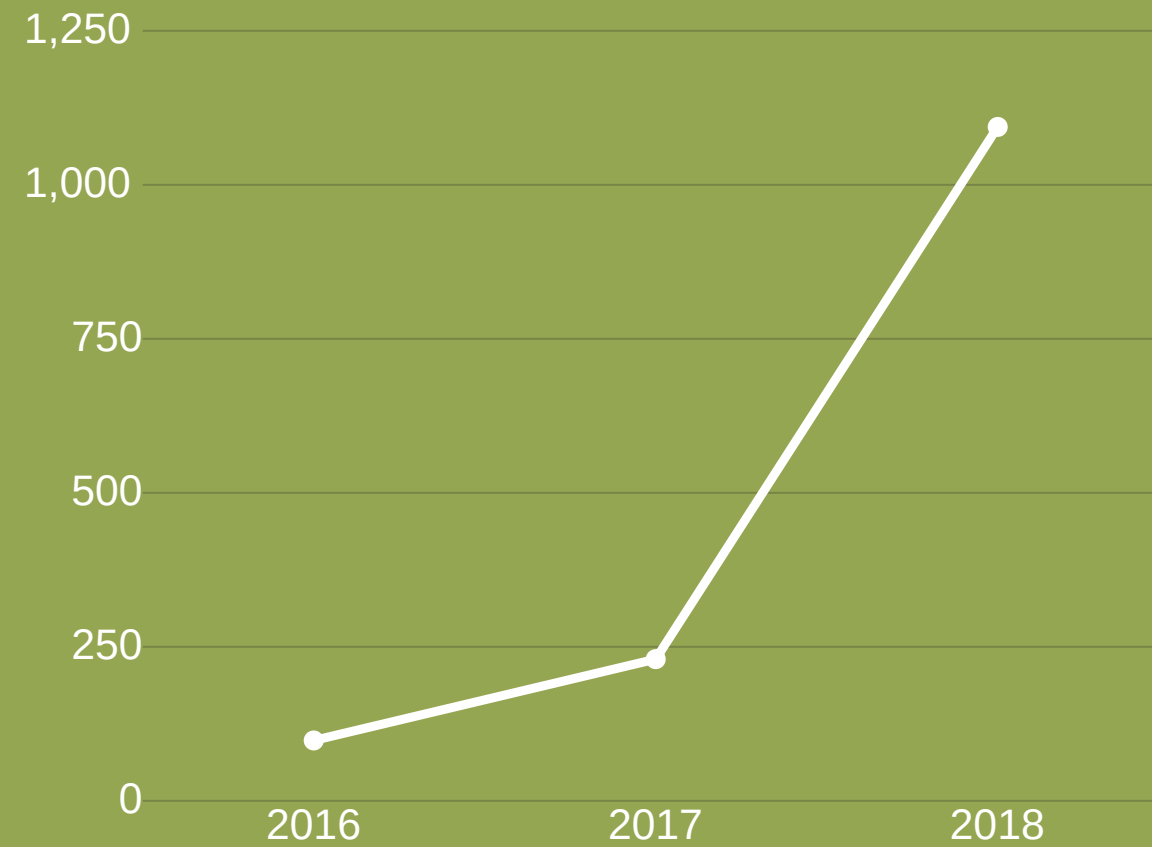
# *Qhamani; Project Playground Alumni*

Qhamani Mgebisa is currently a student at The Cape Academy of Dramatic Arts, where he studies drama. He came to Project Playground the year we opened our doors, he was 11 and was a participant until he went onto tertiary education. Qhamani had a tough childhood, and like so many of his peers, he experienced loss at an early age. When asked what was so good with Project Playground, he says, “it was not just a football team to me, felt like I was in school where I got educated about how to represent myself and what are good and not good things for a person’s life”. He says that his parents were encouraging of him being at Project Playground as there was no other place where he could be safe after school.

Qhamani is soft spoken, polite and humble. He is also confident, strong and determined. A healthy product and ambassador of Project Playground.



Hours of Training Provided



# Continued Professional Development

In 2017, Project Playground provided 230 hours of training to staff. In 2018, part of our strategy was to empower our 44 staff members in order to increase the quality of our services to the children. Thus, in 2018, 1094 hours of external training was provided. Trainings include Facilitation, Children's Rights, Maintenance, Child Development, and Computer Literacy to name a few.





For the 2018 financial year we achieved once again an unqualified audit report. We are very proud of the way we conduct our finances in terms of controls, reporting and financial management. We achieve this through a thorough financial handbook and policy document as well as mini monthly audits. Errors and fraud attempts are recognised at the source and avoided through various controls we have implemented.

In 2018, we increased our local fundraising target to R1.2m to become more self-sufficient in South Africa. We employed a dedicated fundraiser focusing solely on corporates, grants and foundations. We ended the year with a 3.5% deficit in reaching our target budget requirements.

Through implementing cost saving measures throughout the year such as: alternative performance remuneration packages; collaboration with other NPO's; and the introduction of brand ambassadors fundraising for specific projects, we managed to cut costs on the budget by 9% during the year thus leaving as with a surplus of 5.7%.

## *A message from the Financial Manager*

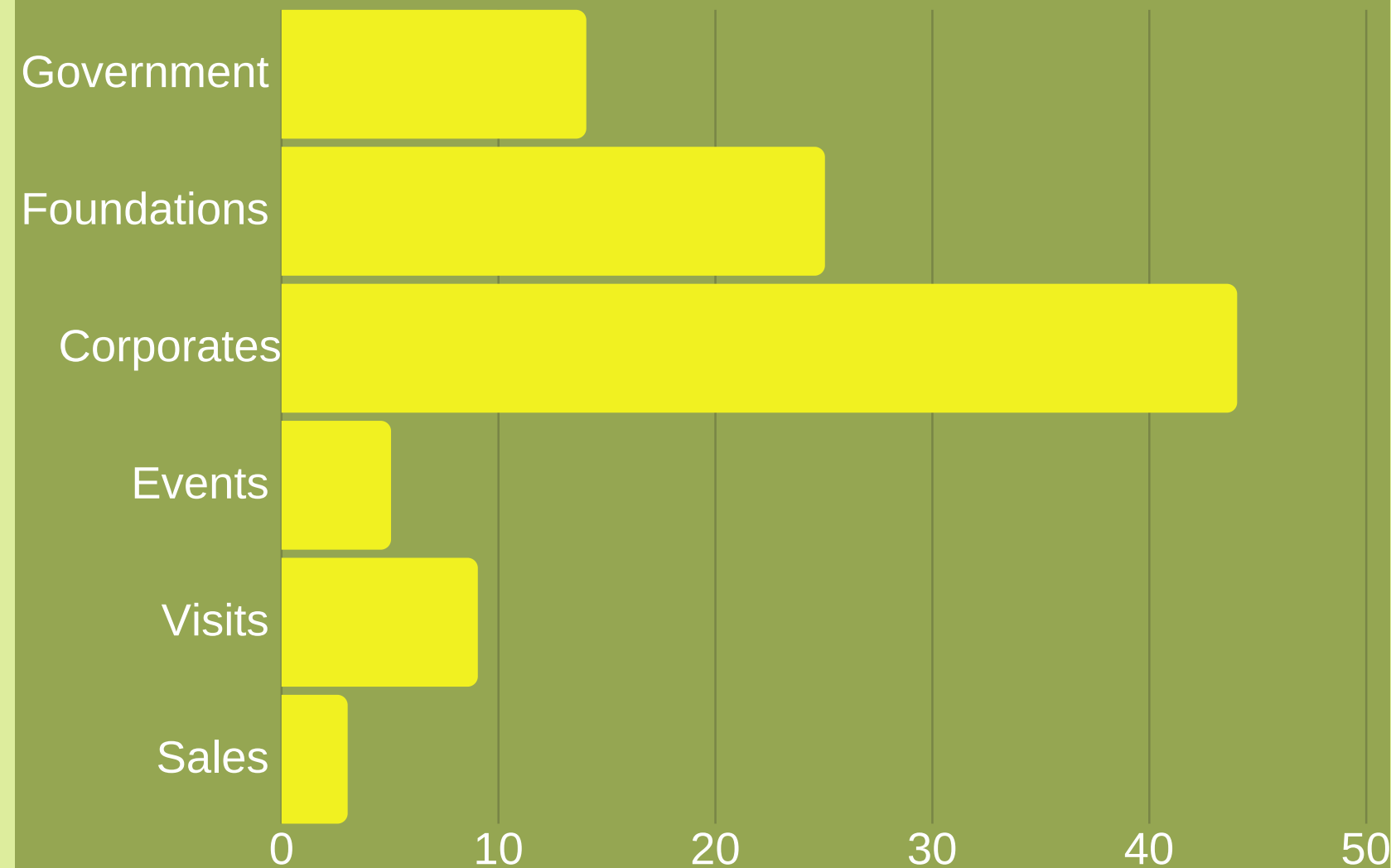
It is our continued belief to arrange fundraising to the extent that funds are raised for future budget years rather than current budget years. Although we did not reach our fundraising target set for 2018, we continue with our efforts to gain long term partnerships both locally and international. We are also excited to share that National Lottery came on board as a sponsor and hope to continue working closely with them in the future. In 2018 we increased our fundraising by 10% compared to 2017.

We continue to grow investment income to ensure funds for sustainability in the event of funding shortfalls. We favour risk averse initiatives to increase equity with short investment periods for immediate access. We keep our current accounts as low as possible with remaining funds invested. I look forward to a prosperous 2019 and feel confident that the 2019 budget has been constructed using a fine balance between value and need.

Shaun Van Wyk Webb - Finance Manager



## Local Funds Raised: Sectors as Percentage



# How We Raised Our Funds

**Total budget**

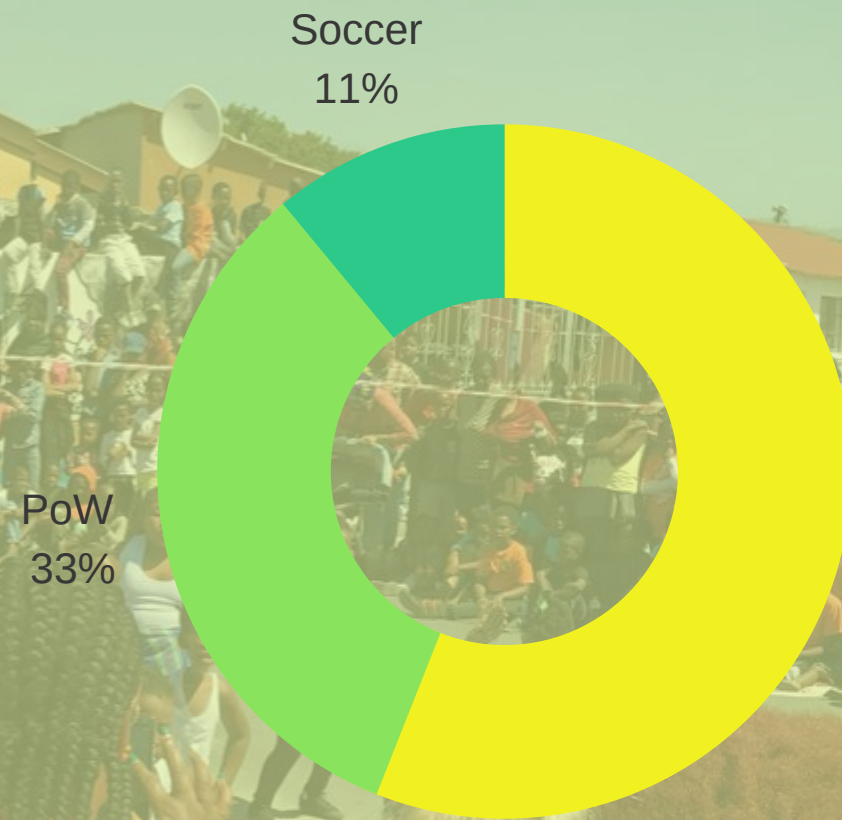
**R9,243,234**

**667,000 Raised locally in SA**

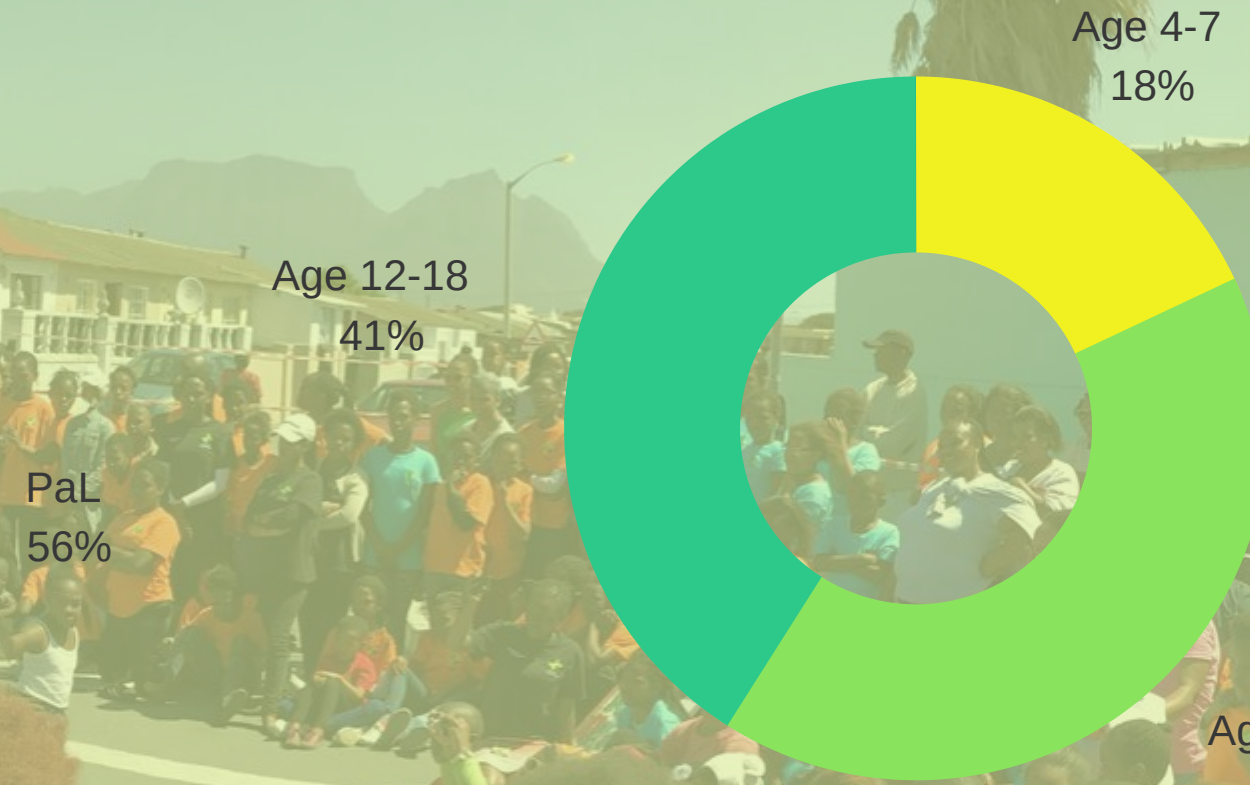
**8,576,234 ZAR contributed  
from Project Playground  
Sweden**



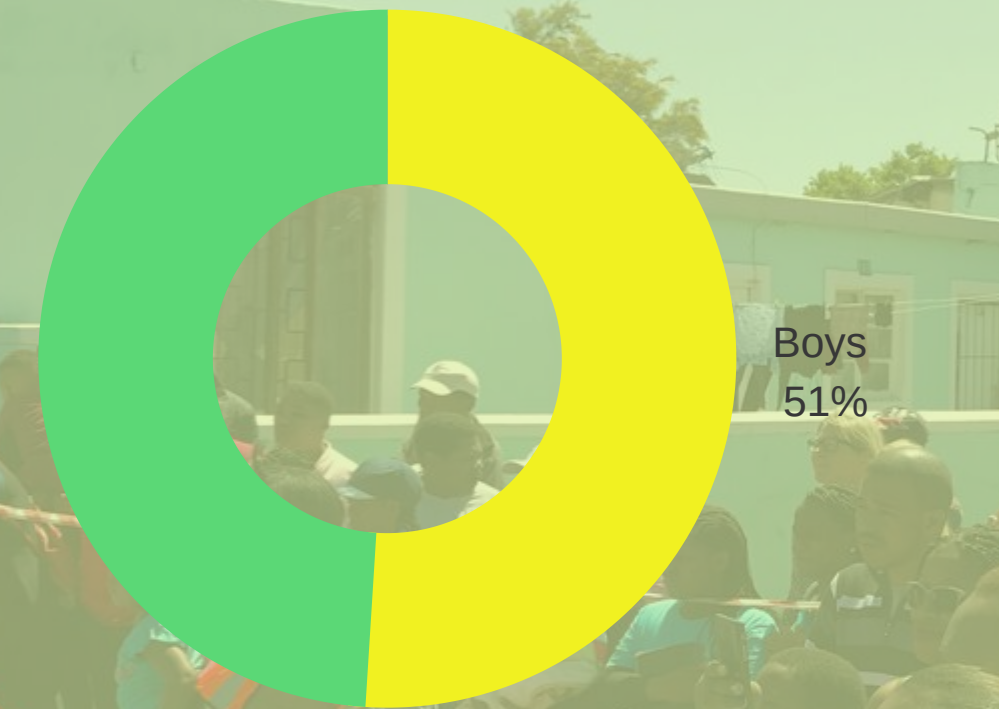




BY DIVISION



BY AGE



BY GENDER

# How We Spent Our Funds



**Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2019**

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	145,418	185,617
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	3	-	5,965
Cash and cash equivalents	4	8,699,708	7,726,369
		<b>8,699,708</b>	<b>7,732,334</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>8,845,126</b>	<b>7,917,951</b>
<b>Funds and Liabilities</b>			
Funds			
Accumulated surplus		4,674,520	3,781,477
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables		8,509	-
Other current liabilities	5	4,162,097	4,136,474
		<b>4,170,606</b>	<b>4,136,474</b>
<b>Total Funds and Liabilities</b>		<b>8,845,126</b>	<b>7,917,951</b>



# Impact

Project Playground's extensive Monitoring and Evaluation system helps us to track and monitor every single child who walks through our doors. We are proud to announce that some of our work has lead to:

**84% of our Below 8 participants were school ready**

meaning that we are contributing to closing the developmental gap in Early Childhood Education. The higher the amount of children being school ready in Grade 1, the lesser the drop out rates in high school

**90% Matric Passrate**

meaning that Project Playground was almost 20% higher than the national average and had a 10% increase from the year before

**78% of our participants** received a 3 or higher mark for maths

**88% of the matriculants applied for tertiary education**

meaning that we have done well in working toward the long term goal of increasing number of youth from Project Playground's communities who are enrolled in tertiary institutions. This is an important attribute in the overall objective of producing individuals who are take an active role in the financial, democratic and peaceful development of South Africa



# Developmental Impact - PoW

Project Playground believes that a disabled child belongs to the most vulnerable groups in society, as they often cannot defend themselves or communicate when they feel unsafe. Through our team of edu-carers, occupational therapist, speech therapist and the exposure to animal assisted therapy, PoW has accomplished great things in 2018. Some of them include:

Our participants spent

**4 out of 5 hours**

in a beneficial position. This means standing frames or other assisting equipment. Positioning benefits include strengthened muscle, improved communication, joint development and long term well-being

**144 hours**

of hippo therapy was provided

**108 hours**

of speech therapy was provided

**5 children**

were assessed by the Department of Education, out of which, 2 progressed into a special needs school, 1 was placed on a waiting list and 2 will be reassessed in 2019

**50% of the children**

were subsidised by Department of Social Development after an application was approved. DSD has funded Langa PoW since 2014



## EVENTS BY PROJECT PLAYGROUND

Children's Art Festival

Africa Week

Children's Christmas Day

Born Free

12 Positive Parenting Conferences  
provided free of charge to parents

## EVENTS PARTICIPATED IN

Gothia Cup - Sweden

Bayhill Tournament

Clan Williams

Grahamstown Festival

## SOME OF THE VISITORS INCLUDED

Stanford University

Obama Foundation

HRH Queen Silvia of  
Sweden

## COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

Passalen

Cape Town Carnival

Baxter Theatre

Artscape

The Art of Living is Giving

*Events*



# THANK YOU

## **To our Sponsors and Friends**

Walkers Attorneys, H&M, Nomads Golf Club Western Cape Province, Western Cape DSD, Western Cape Arts & Culture, Western Cape Sports & Culture, National Lottery, Medical Research Council, BlueWater, FoodForwardSA, BLOK, HK Enterprises, Student Athletes Abroad, Embassy of Sweden, MyChoice Travel, Solid, Itouch, WNS, Protea Hotel, Coronation, DHL, Navy Creative

## **To our amazing interns**

Filip Livfergren, Karina Nielsen, Hedda Most, Karin Remse, Matilda Stendal, Johanna Friman, Malin Håkansson, Rebecka Tjäder, Ida Kjellberg Söderström

## **A Special Thanks**

To our sister organisation Project Playground Sweden for all support



# Contact

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