Project Playground Fact Sheet

Launch Date: 01 September 2010
B-BBEE Class: Level 1 B-BBEE Certificate
(135% B-BBEE Procurement Recognition Level)

Benchmark: UN Convention on The Rights of the Child

Regulation: Watson Inc Audit Firm

NPO No: 100-676
Trust No: IT57/2011
Word From Founders

Project Playground’s objective is to create a sustainable future by empowering children. One by one.

We are a registered non-profit organization working towards increasing the possibilities in life for children and youth in areas that are systematically socially and economically deprived, by creating a meaningful use of spare time with focus on the individual. Project Playground was created in 2010 with the aim to use structured play as a tool for a child to feel free, safe and happy; we believed that every child deserved a childhood, as we had witnessed many children having to grow up far earlier than they should. Our idea was quite quickly developed into a theory that if a child would come to Project Playground and we were able to gain their trust, we could use the time to teach the children about themselves, life, and rights & wrongs at the same time as they would develop practical and physical life- and social skills. If we managed to keep their trust, they had a chance to develop a different mindset to the one many were exposed to in the township. Because without a healthy mindset, no one is able to sustain a healthy lifestyle. Almost eight years into community work, we are still learning and seeking ways to develop and improve, but have come a long way with many stories of hope, success and perseverance to add to our journey.

Project Playground recognize that the vicious cycle of poverty, abuse, violence and injustice will never be broken unless the level and quality of education and skills development is not improved. And so, Project Playground has grown into a place where we take time to understand the individual so that we can apply interventions of support so as to improve the opportunities for this individual to heal, learn and develop. We are a place of love, patience, care and quality. And we’re just getting started!
Context & Demographics

Translated from the Afrikaans meaning 'apartness', apartheid was the ideology supported by the National Party (NP) government and was introduced in South Africa in 1948. Apartheid called for the separate development of the different racial groups in South Africa. On paper it appeared to call for equal development and freedom of cultural expression, but the way it was implemented made this impossible. Apartheid-made laws forced the different racial groups to live separately and develop separately, and grossly unequally too. More than this, apartheid was a social system which severely disadvantaged the majority of the population, simply because they did not share the skin color of the rulers. Many were kept just above destitution because they were 'non-white'.

In South Africa, the term “township” refers to the, often underdeveloped, areas that from the mid 1920’s were reserved for the non-white people as part of the Apartheid strategy. Project Playground works exclusively in these areas, with and for the children and youth forced to grow up in the legacy of Apartheid. Our children come from broken families, abusive families, homes without electricity, homes without enough food, homes without adequate shelter. Our children go to schools without proper school books, proper school benches or proper teachers. Sports is often not on the curriculum, and in the rare occasions it happens to be, facilities are often very neglected.
In an ideal situation, a child should be raised by two loving parents in a stable home where he/she is well taken care of. The child should have enough food to eat and sufficient clothing to wear. His or her parents should be concerned about school matters and encourage the child’s progress. This is not true for many of our participants. Most come from single parent homes or are under the guardianship of a relative; very few have both parents in the household. Many of our participants are exposed to violence, both in their own homes, in school and on the streets. Children witness substance abuse, and many fall victim to drugs or alcohol themselves at an early age. A child growing up under these conditions can struggle with many issues such as low self-esteem and not feeling like they belong, resulting in them growing up to be adults who still struggle with these issues, and so the negative pattern is upheld.

Many of our participants are inadequately supervised as they are left on their own during the hours they come home from school. This time leaves room for them to possibly be exposed to certain social ills that could lead them astray. Some of these social ills can include gangsterism, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse to name but a few. These are the hours Project Playground programmes fill in order to create a safe space for children.

**Gugulethu**
- 100,000 inhabitants
- 71% have an income of R3200 or less p.m.
- 6% have tertiary education
- 40% unemployment

**Langa**
- 50,000 inhabitants
- 7% have tertiary education
- 60% unemployment
PROJECT PLAYGROUND
2017

SUMMARY

702 PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED IN 2017, AN INCREASE OF 10% FROM 2016.

83 STAFF TRAININGS PROVIDED TO OUR
15 MALE STAFF
29 FEMALE STAFF

LIFETIME AWARD
Project Playground received the Lorna Klein LifeTime Achievement Award for our successful work with girls engaged in Netball.

NATIONAL YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

55%

STAGGERING

Through WorkShadow Program we contributed to increased knowledge about work environment
52% of WorkShadow participants gained work experience through internships
58% of interns received permanent employment

ENSURING PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS

25%

25%

25%

25%

DECREASE IN RED CASES BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER DUE TO INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS FAMILY SUPPORT, SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS, INDIVIDUAL THERAPIST INTERVENTIONS.

OF PARTICIPANTS AT PROJECT PLAYGROUND WHO SEEK PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS RECEIVE SOME FORM OF INTERVENTION.

OF SOUTH AFRICAN GIRLS WILL BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BEFORE THEY TURN 18, COMPARED TO 3.7% OF BOYS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 32% OF THE VICTIMS ARE ABUSED BY SOMEONE IN THEIR FAMILY.

HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS

BOYS 47%

GIRLS 53%

CHILDREN UNDER 8 YEARS 25%

M&E FINDINGS

10% improved their social skills
60% kept or improved their school marks
80% of children aged 4 and 5 are school ready
23% improved knowledge of social life
Theory of Change

Poor nutrition
Depression
Lack of
Lack of
Substance
Stress
Trauma

Toxic
stress
Lack of
attention
Poor nutrition
Poor hygiene
Family dysfunction
Caregiver addiction
Lack of stimulation

Fewer neural connections
Lack of brain development

Encouragement
Building self esteem
Developing social skills
Gross & fine motor skills
School Readiness
Language & reading
Developing imagination
Access to psychosocial assistance
Access to assessments of development stages

Continued development of social skills
Identity encouragement
Dreams
Goals
Confidence
Safe to disclose
Understanding of social ills
Adapting to school
Enriching experiences

Age 4 - 7
Low self-esteem
Inability to deal with trauma
Poor social skills
Can’t develop friendships
Aggression
Poor development
Not ready for school
Poor understanding

Age 8 - 11

Age 12 - 18
Criminal behaviour
Teenage pregnancy
Abusive relationship
Repeat of childhood trauma
Drop out
Unemployment
Poverty

Liability to society
Violence
Depression
Behind in school
No study support
Poor development
Vulnerable to gangs
Poor understanding
Vulnerable to bullying
Lack of knowledge of rights

Asset to society
Access to opportunity
Understands physical development
Personal goals and plans
Takes responsibility
Resists peer pressure
Understands ethics
Has self-worth
Role model
**Long Term Impact**

1. **Improved self-confidence, optimism, and ability to take initiative among children and youth**
   - Description: Children in targeted areas have less behavior problems and are more engaged.
   - Long Term Results: Increased recognition for improved social and recreational skills among children and youth.
   - Short to Medium Term Results: Social and recreational skills among children and youth are improved.

2. **Increased number of youth from PPG communities who are enrolled in tertiary institutions**
   - Description: By providing support to children and youth through programs such as PPG, more students are enrolled in tertiary institutions.
   - Long Term Results: Increased learner retention and pass rates among children and youth.
   - Short to Medium Term Results: Increased literacy and numeracy among children and youth attending PPG programs.

3. **Increased long-term employment of youth**
   - Description: PPG provides opportunities for youth to gain work experience.
   - Long Term Results: Increased youth involvement in local decision-making processes.
   - Short to Medium Term Results: Improved entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

4. **The psychosocial status of children and youth is improved**
   - Description: PPG addresses issues of bullying and harassment.
   - Long Term Results: Reduced anxiety and stress among children and youth.
   - Short to Medium Term Results: Improved school attendance and discipline among children and youth.

5. **Reduction in social problems affecting children and youth in their communities**
   - Description: PPG works with communities to address social issues.
   - Long Term Results: Children and youth have increased knowledge of institutions that offer support.
   - Short to Medium Term Results: Children and youth are better equipped to deal with social issues.

6. **Increased social integration of mentally and physically disabled individuals**
   - Description: PPG provides opportunities for all children, including those with disabilities.
   - Long Term Results: Increased awareness of the value of all children in society.
   - Short to Medium Term Results: Children with disabilities are more accepted in society.
38% of children and youth had improved social and recreational skills

81% of children aged 4 and 5 are ready for school

56% of children and youth have kept up or improved their marks

95% of children aged 4 and 5 are ready for school

80% improved functional capacity

92% improved physical well-being

64% of children and youth have kept up or improved their marks

32% of children and youth had improved social and recreational skills

Langa

Gugulethu

Play on Wheels
In 2017 we had **702** participants, 407 in Langa, 207 in Gugulethu and 88 in Samora (all of which were senior football).
Home Visits

We pride ourselves in building solid and healthy relationships with our participants and their families. Institutions working with children, such as schools and some doing extra-curricular activities all require that the child and parent access its services from the institution’s facilities. Parent meetings are held at the school. Activities are also held on the premises. This makes it difficult to fully assess the kind of environment a child comes from. We have had cases where a child seems to be well taken care of as all the necessary boxes are checked but it is when we visit the family at home that certain issues are highlighted.

We have found that home visits provide a more comprehensive assessment of a child’s situation. The importance of having another home visit in the second half of the year helps to assess the changes in participants’ situations from the earlier home visit until now. Many of our participants are inadequately supervised as they are left on their own during the hours they come home school before their parents/guardians are home from work. This time leaves room for them to possibly be exposed to certain social ills that could lead them stray. Some of these social ills can include gangsterism, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse to name but a few. These are the hours Project Playground programmes fill in order to create a safe space for children.
A green household means that the child is provided with their basic needs such as shelter, adequate food, and at least one responsible adult in the home.

A yellow household means that there are needs that are not seen to, but they may be deemed minor, such as; parents going through a divorce, minor hygienic issues, overcrowding, parent lack sufficient parental skills. Intervention is needed but on a smaller scale.

A red household means there is an urgent need for intervention, and possibly the need to involve the police or social development. The child is neglected, major hygienic issues, no responsible adult, the house is an illegal bar, there are signs of abuse, domestic violence or substance

Disclaimer: The reason for some Home Visits not being able to be finalized is due to reluctance from parents to allow us in, the family has moved, or the family moved without informing us of their new address.
Changing Worlds

- The case of a POW participant whose family had been neglecting care for many years has improved significantly after several interventions throughout this year. The client has moved from being a red case to a yellow case.
- A 12 year old reported his mother as being physically and financially abusive to him. We intervened in the case and with the assistance of the Department of Social Development, the social grant is being transferred to the child’s grandmother under the supervision of DSD and PPG.
- A 12 year old with a habit of shoplifting from the local supermarket was helped through the intervention of roping in significant others in her life such as her mother, PPG facilitator and the school. There have not been any incidents reported in the past few months.
- A 16 year old who was feeling uncomfortable about sexual advances made towards her by an older man, reported the matter on her own free will as she felt comfortable enough to do so at PPG. Several interventions took place to ensure her safety from what can only be described as the start of “grooming” by a predator.
# Finances

**Project Playground Trust**  
(Registration number: IT57/2011)  
Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2018

**Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures in Rand</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Assets</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
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<td>185,617</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>7,732,334</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>7,114,022</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funds and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
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<td>Accumulated surplus</td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Other current liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds and Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>7,917,951</td>
<td>7,114,022</td>
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If you face any problems, are unsafe, or not taken care of at home, do you feel that PPG can help you? If not, tell us why.

“Yes, because PPG is the place where you talk about your problems.”

“Yes, because they do home visits to check on us.”

“I feel that they can help you, because they are your parents too.”

“Yes, we get to talk to a social worker at PPG to tell them any personal things.”

“Words From The Participants”
If you face any problems, are unsafe, or not taken care of at home, do you feel that PPG can help you?

“Yes, because there’s always sis Nyameka and other teachers to help.”

“Yes, especially Ms Nyameka, she helps me.”

“Yes, because it is a better place to tell your problems, so that you can feel free.”
“PPG is the place where you change your life and enjoy yourself.”

“PPG is where joy is.”

“We love PPG, and we will keep going.”

“PPG is a good place that keeps you from bad things.”

“PPG made me a very different person, when I'm inside PPG and when I'm outside PPG.”

“Great facilitators, enjoyed every year being here and I thank every person at PPG.”

“It is a great place to be at, and I feel safe and comfortable at PPG.”
With Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who supported us this year, allowing us to create magic, change destinies and provide so many children with a childhood.

Small steps, significant change.