



PROJECT PLAYGROUND  
SOUTH AFRICA

---

ANNUAL  
REPORT 2019

---

TRUST: IT57/2011  
NPO 100-676



**PROJECT  
PLAYGROUND**



---

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

---

The year 2019's theme for Project Playground South Africa was "imagine"; it brought with it more emphasis on ambitions and dreams. For the seventh consecutive year we traveled to Gothia Cup, two participants were awarded a trip to the UK, and one of our soccer participants got an opportunity to train for a professional team in Finland.

On home ground we broke barriers of what is deemed possible with our participants at Play on Wheels as some of our children learned the art of communication and some learned to walk for the very first time.

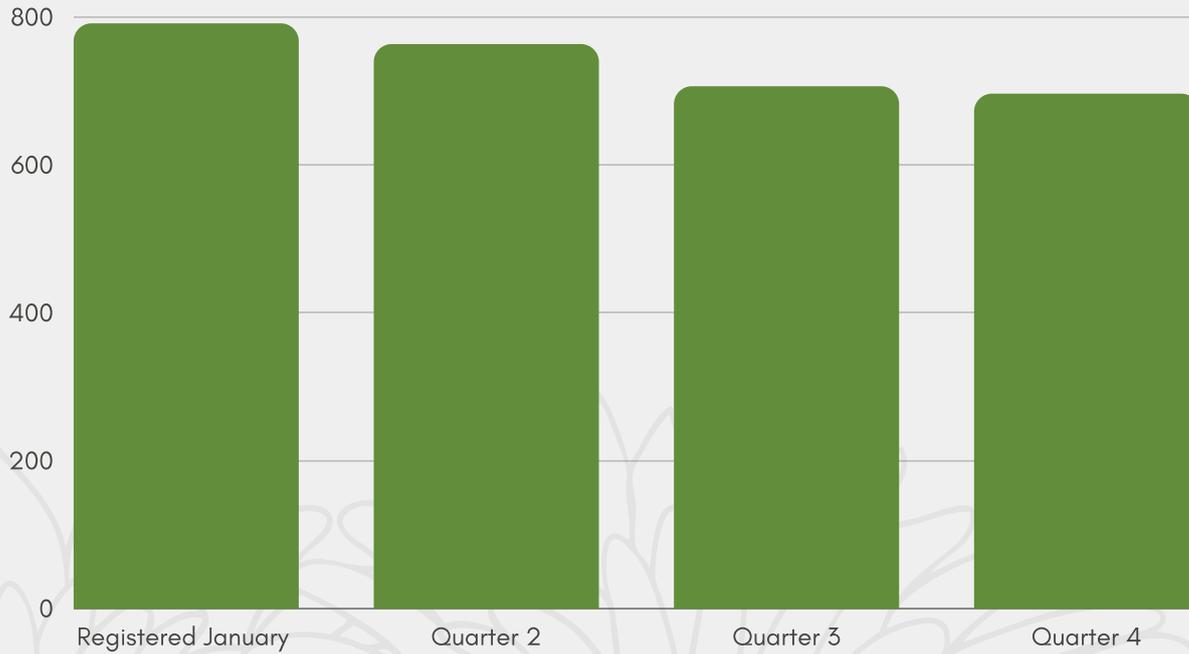
Project Playground is a South African Trust governed by a board of trustees and adhere to the Independent Code for NPO's, we are proud to have an efficient and effective financial management and are audited monthly.

In 2019 we registered 790 children and youth, almost 70% of whom re-registered from previous year, and half were girls.

We set out to create a year where we inspired our boys and girls to be ambitious and hopeful, to stay focused and determined, and to be part of improving their community. This report will highlight a fraction of our successes.

Frida Vesterberg and HRH Princess Sofia of Sweden

### Registered Participants



## OUR PARTICIPANTS

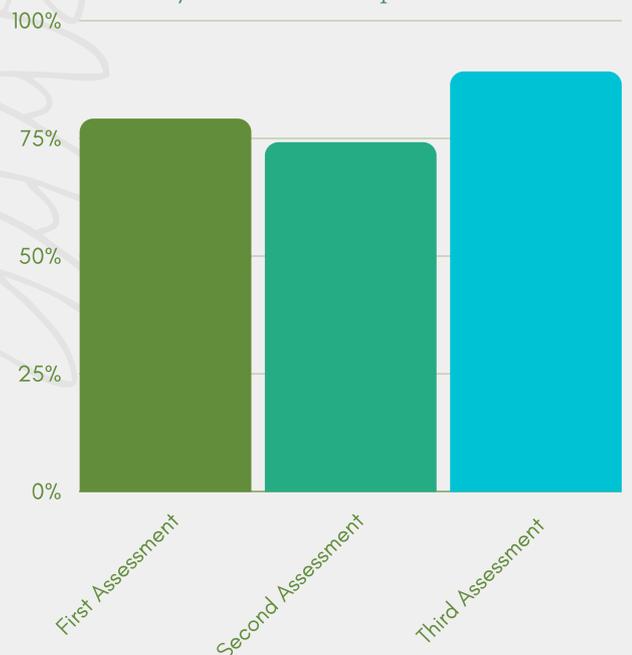
Project Playground provides activities and programs aimed at increasing self-esteem and ambitions through supportive initiatives focused on education, physical and mental health. We foster independence, self-actualisation and a growth mindset through our two after-school centres, situated in Langa and Gugulethu. Our premises include two day care centres catering for children living with severe disabilities.

The trust was formed in 2010 with headquarters in Langa and is governed by a local board of trustees.

## PARTICIPANT DEVELOPMENT

One of our core objectives is to improve how our participants view themselves, to strengthen self belief and self worth. Various assessments are done on a quarterly basis with our participants. One assessment refers to self image and self worth. Participants answer a set of questions relating to their own perception of themselves and how they think others perceive them.

### Children and youth with improved self-esteem



Azize Mathlala was an 8-year-old boy in the Below 8 class in 2019. As part of our collaboration with the Medical Research Council, facilitators piloted gender equality life-skills lessons with the kids. One of the teachings was that boys and girls can do and enjoy the same things. Such as it's okay for a boy to cook food or play with dolls. Azize embraced these lessons with great gumption. He enjoyed the cooking and joined the girls in playing netball. Indeed, he was an excellent example to all the kids in his class that boys can do anything!

After the gender equality sessions our participants have changed their perspective and accepted that boys and girls are equal - they can have the same likes, dislikes and perform the same tasks with equal skill. This initiative has increased integration between genders. With time, it is also likely to improve how children respond to challenging social conditions, by empowering them to handle them with resilience and confidence.

We operate in a community where stealing a packet of chips from a shop - a crime - is not seen as a big deal. Where our society fails our youth is in correcting them when they commit minor crimes like stealing chips from a shop. Even in our homes, taking what doesn't belong to you, whether from your parent or sibling, may not be addressed appropriately. And so we breed a generation of youth who become gangsters and major criminals when they are older.

At Project Playground we break this culture by nipping dishonesty in the bud and teaching good character. Take the case of Sandile Nogaga, a 13-year-old boy in the Soccer U14 team. His mother died when he was little; his father then snatched him away from his mother's family, raising him in poor conditions. He lived in a shebeen, was not enrolled in school and would go days without bathing. Eventually his aunt found the boy and took him under her wing, enrolling him in school and ensuring that his hygiene was maintained. Sandile was a troubled boy with a short temper. He was rebellious at school and at home. At his aunt's house he would steal money. He joined PPG in 2018, where his coach Simphiwe engaged him in team talks and life skills lessons. On Sunday the 4th of August, after a soccer match, Sandile came up to his coach to report that he had found a fancy cell phone on the field. Upon investigation Simphiwe realised the phone belonged to one of the PPG coaches, Thandisizwe, who had not yet realised that his phone was lost. Simphiwe was pleasantly surprised at this honest act of Sandile's.

It is clear that change in the lives of our participants is imminent. It's vital that we don't give up on the childrens' ability to display honesty and trustworthiness, in spite of their backgrounds.





---

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL WORKER

---

2019 was truly a year of one of the mottos we live by; Small Steps, Significant Change. We saw the manifestation of seeds that were planted through the Social Work Department in the past three years since its inception. Our tenth social work intern graduated to qualify as a professional social worker. The year was characterised by notable connections such as the honour of meeting Her Majesty Queen of Sweden who also visited with one of our families in their home. We had the privilege of meeting the President of the South African Council of Social Service Professions and introducing her to the work of Project Playground which she remains in awe of. The year saw us encountering the rollercoaster experience that is the South African Justice System on five criminal cases fighting for the rights of children, with two resulting in an outcome in our favour. We lived out the PPG social work department spirit of holistic intervention practice and this ideal saw children whose own parents had given up on them, transform before their very eyes.

In South Africa. In a nutshell, 2019 encompassed the heart of social work at PPG in that there was growth and movement from grassroots level in a holistic manner. The changes within clients resulted in positive transformation of their social environments. We continue to strive towards self-sustaining families. One family at a time.

Nyameka Mzamo, Project Playground Social Worker



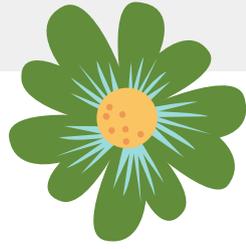
In 2009, Thimna was 3 years old. His mother had excelled at school, was a working mom and the only breadwinner in the family. She had big dreams for herself and Thimna. The father was abusive and violent towards Thimnas mother, and in an altercation that year he stabbed her to death in front of their son. What followed was what seemed an eternity in and out of court as the case just got postponed year after year. Thimna had to endure multiple trauma as he had to testify over and over again, without his father going to prison.

A few years later, Thimna joins Project Playground. He is an angry boy and struggles to concentrate and stay focused. He lives with his grandmother who suffered health wise due to her daughter's death and the devastating journey of trying to seek justice. Thimna and the gran receive therapy at Project Playground and ongoing support attending court. Project Playground also assists by painting their house and provides work for the unemployed grandmother so they can get by.

In March 2019, Thimna is almost 14 years old and on his way to court with our social worker and his grandmother. After a decade of perseverance, Thimna finally sees justice for his mother as the court passed a guilty verdict. The father gets 15 years in prison. After the verdict they all went to the grave and cried tears of relief and gratitude. Thimna still longs for his mother, but is now an adjusted young man who studies hard and can control his temper.

Number of participants who received psychosocial support





Two caregivers enrolled in and passed the nationally accredited Caregiver Course through Robin Trust in partnership with Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability

All eight Play on Wheels staff passed their Level 1 First Aid training

The seven caregivers attended computer literacy courses. This increased their ability and confidence in checking and replying to emails, and submitting electronic records.

The manager attended the Intermediate seating course in 2019, which has enabled Project Playground to do more in-house wheelchair fitting for the 14 participants who need it.

Partnered with Unmute dance academy, and Play on Wheels was afforded the opportunity to perform on stage at Artscape Theatre

World Rugby winners procession. Play on Wheels hit the streets with other residents to watch the winning Springbok Rugby team drive through the streets of Langa.

Out of four parent meetings at two centres (eight total), six saw more than 80% parental attendance.

Nelson Mandela Day – With funds from Ubunye bracelets, we could replace part of a participant's shack that regularly flooded in the rainy season.

19 out of 23 participants showed improvements in functional ability

Among these one participant went for surgery to lengthen her tendons in her legs. She has subsequently started walking with crutches.

Three participants have shown significant progress in toilet training.

Two participants have shown significant progress in feeding themselves.

One participant was enrolled in an adult skills development workshop

One participant successfully enrolled at school.



2019 saw one of our toughest and most in depth audits to date with a big focus on internal control measures and zooming in on the fiduciary duties of management. We managed to successfully navigate is and come out with an unqualified audit. There were some excellent suggestions made as part of the report which have all been implemented to date.

At the end of the 2019 budget year, we reached our savings target of 50% of annual operational costs. This goal was set out in 2014 and took 5 years to achieve.

In 2019 we set out to overhaul our banking and petty cash processes. We successfully moved our portfolio over to FNB thereby increasing our return on investment as well as reducing bank charges, hours spent on banking and streamlining our back office reconciliations. It took a little longer than expected and therefore the accompanying petty cash overhaul was postponed to 2020.

## Project Playground Trust

(Registration number: IT57/2011)

Financial Statements for the year ended 29 February 2020

### Statement of Financial Position as at 29 February 2020

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	2	171,956	145,418
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	9,240,537	8,699,708
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>9,412,493</b>	<b>8,845,126</b>
<b>Funds and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus		5,266,466	4,674,520
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	8,508	8,509
Other current liabilities	5	4,137,519	4,162,097
		<b>4,146,027</b>	<b>4,170,606</b>
<b>Total Funds and Liabilities</b>		<b>9,412,493</b>	<b>8,845,126</b>



---

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

---

I am extremely honoured to serve Project Playground as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

The success of any organisation is dependent on the passion of its management and staff. We do not lack that passion. Our remarkable director, Frida Vesterberg, and staff ensured that our vision for “A world where every child and youth grow up with a belief in the future and the opportunity to positively impact their own lives” continually burns in our minds and hearts. I have witnessed this pride to serve in every person linked to PPG that I have met. It is evident from Trevor at the gate to the Director. I salute the amazing staff, the parents and more importantly those children that we serve. The love and warmth that reverberates throughout PPG is unprecedented.

Lastly, to the members of the Board. Your efforts and support have not gone unnoticed. Let us continue to assist in making that difference. Let us increase our involvement.

“Eventually all things will fall into place. Until then, laugh at the confusion, live for the moments, and know everything happens for a reason.” – Albert Schweitzer

Noore Nacerodien, Chairperson



Noore Nacerodien,  
Chairperson



Adv Tarisai Mchuchu,  
Vice Chair



Dr Vuyi Skiti  
Trustee



Nosipho Madikiza  
Trustee



Lorella Campi  
Trustee



Frida Vesterberg  
Trustee



Lerato Legadima  
Trustee



---

## SPONSORS, INTERNS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

---

A very special heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, partners and friends:

Western Cape Department of Social Development, iTouch Messaging Services, K&V Art (Dala), The Nomads Gold Club, Ceder's Gin, Ideas Cartel, Wirecard, Bluewater, Food Forward, Food Lovers Market, Student-Athletes Abroad, H&M, JusDraft, GotEnoughStuff, Reflective Learning, Lindsay Pentz Promotions, Mary Hardin School, Horforth School, Unisa Lenasia, MyChoice Travel, all our My Tribe for Good supporters, Kerstin & Allan Akerstedt, James & Kate Steere, Edward Jones, Oxbow Office Equipment.

We have immense gratitude towards all the interns in 2019 who spent their time and efforts assisting our work:

Samantha Davis, Maddie Hobbs, Brianna McCoy, Megan Foster, Ali Shanahan, Savannah Shaw, Eliza Roberts, Ludwig Soudah.

A special recognition to individuals who have given of their time and expertise to assist in our work:

Kerstin Akerstedt, Warren Adler, Karina Andersson, Lesley Sykes and Mercedes Artigue.

