

# TRUSTNEWS

3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER ISSUE – 2021

NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**In all of our strategic areas, as SIOC-CDT we are making sure that we implement and deliver the best possible outcomes for a long lasting, positive impact in our beneficiary communities, beyond the lifespan of the mines.**

Engaged stakeholders is a priority in all our projects. Collaboration and partnerships and an inclusive approach ensures that everything that we do is done with sector-by-sector conversations with stakeholders such as business, Government across provincial and municipal spheres, NGOs and the communities themselves. This approach is adopted across all our focus areas of Education, Health and Social Welfare and Enterprise Development.

 **SIOC  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
TRUST**

**CONTINUES INSIDE**

The season of giving is upon us, and as we prepare to celebrate this special time of year, I would like to thank all our stakeholders for the dedication and support shown on the collaborations we have had throughout the year 2021, that has made it possible for us to go the length we have to deliver the highest service to the communities we serve. My warmest wishes to everyone in our beneficiary communities. Have a safe festive season and a prosperous 2022.



This inclusive philosophy drives how issues of common interest are identified in our beneficiary communities. It also drives the sustainability model that we employ to ensure that any projects that are embarked on have as big a long-lasting impact as possible.

On the health front, the Re a Fola mobile health clinic has played a vital role. The World Sight Day 2021 campaign article is just a taste of the extensive work done by this mobile health facility to provide accessible healthcare to our beneficiary communities.

The infrastructure projects across the Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces are progressing positively. Infrastructure projects such as the Olifantshoek and Dibeng infill housing and Babatas water projects are both underway. Details on both of these projects are included in this issue.

There are also a host of interesting initiatives supporting enterprise development for SMMEs along with an outline of the support that SIOC-CDT is providing to the education sector through the Early Childhood Development Programme and the Senior Management Team and Learner Intervention projects. Both of these programmes are laid on a foundation of sustainable planning for long-term impact for the youth.

Whilst 2021 is coming to an end, it has been a year of immense progress and rising to the many challenges. The annual Stakeholder Day report from the event on 2 December 2021 has been uploaded to our website as well as on YouTube and we hope that you find time to listen to the project outcomes and highlights.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

**Refilwe Sebogodi**  
Editor



## QUARTERLY BUSINESS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS RECEIVE A WARM RESPONSE

Stakeholder engagement is at the core of SIOC-CDT operations

**S**IOC-CDT aims to engage with its stakeholders on a regular basis to ensure that our initiatives are aligned with the needs on the ground. This is a process that we as an organisation undertake with all of our stakeholder groups and individuals, including the business sector.

In the past, we have convened with the business sector on a quarterly basis as part of our operational plan. We engage with the beneficiary communities separately. The rationale for convening different types of engagement opportunities is to ensure that:

- Our plans and interventions are aligned with each stakeholder group needs.
- The beneficiary communities' opinions are included in our planning processes.

- The beneficiary communities are included in our interventions and rightfully feel a sense of ownership of them.
- Our planning builds in opportunities for collaborations with other sector stakeholders.

Through these engagements, SIOC-CDT has been able to ensure that planned interventions are both aligned and responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries. This process has resulted in the swift response of the organisation to the impact of Covid-19 through projects such as the SMME Relief Fund. Although there were other projects that were planned for 2020 and 2021, it became apparent through our engagements that what would address the plight of our

*Continues on next page >>*



business community at the time would be to offer them an opportunity to keep their businesses going through a relief grant. It was also apparent that both the formal and informal business sectors required assistance.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not made it easy for us to continue with business as usual and while we were exploring alternative means of honouring our engagement plans, we were only able to host the first 2021 Business Sector quarterly engagement on the 29th September 2021.

The online meeting was attended by about 60 business sector stakeholders from all of our beneficiary communities. The meeting was used by SIOC-CDT to update everyone attending on all of the current enterprise development projects and initiatives, to present new initiatives and to gather inputs from them.

**THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING:**

- ✓ The SIOC-CDT Enterprise Development Strategy which seeks to ensure sustainability in all that we do and focuses on 3 pillars: Market Access, Enabling Environments and Business Development Support.
- ✓ The Enterprise Development Strategy for the current year and related projects and programmes.
- ✓ An update on the projects that are currently under implementation (Thabazimbi Hub and Relief Fund).
- ✓ Upcoming interventions (SMME Portal and Growth Fund).

One of the highlights of the presentation was the introduction of the SMME Online Procurement Portal that will provide a platform for SMMEs to access procurement opportunities by SIOC-CDT and other partners. Stakeholders were informed of the upcoming launch of the portal and encouraged to participate.

The update report on the Relief Fund was an awaited matter by all of the businesses. The presented report included an amount of R10, 946,000 disbursed to a total of 483 informal and formal businesses within the beneficiary communities.

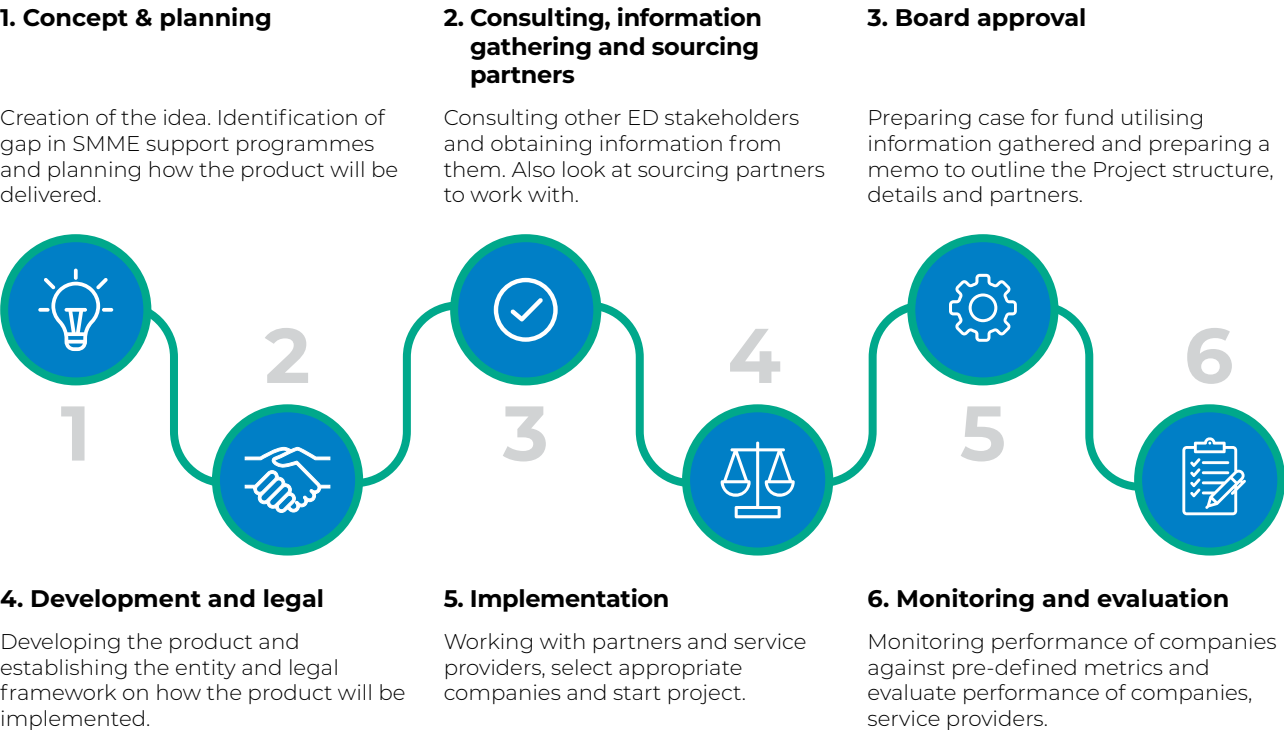
The stakeholders in attendance were further urged to anticipate the introduction of the Growth Fund that was still at planning phase. The Growth Fund is intended to respond to the need identified in a survey

undertaken in July 2020, that showed that 66% of our SMMEs were citing challenges with accessing funding after being awarded work or receiving purchase orders.

The Fund is designed to provide SMMEs with funding at lower interest rates and less stringent qualification requirements than conventional channels, to enable them to meet their purchase order or appointment demands.

A report was also provided on the Supplier Development project currently underway. This project is a collaboration between Kumba Iron Ore and SIOC-CDT. The initiative seeks to train the local SMME communities in the Northern Cape and Limpopo in some of the skills that are required to successfully undertake project implementation.

**HOW WE DO PROJECTS**  
From concept to evaluation



Overall, there are **eighty SIOC-CDT SMMEs** targeted to attend and complete the following courses by end 2021:

- Accounting Made Easy
- Project Management
- Construction Management
- Tender Pricing

The engagement was welcomed by all, with much anticipation declared for future engagements.

Going forward, the plan is to ensure that the quarterly engagement schedule is adhered to and the method of engagement (virtual or physical) will be determined by the Covid-19 lockdown levels at the time. Engagements will be conducted separately for Limpopo and the Northern Cape.

# WORLD SIGHT DAY

SIOC-CDT's Re a Fola Clinic reaches out to over 300 school children this World Sight Day

As part of World Sight Day, Re a Fola mobile clinic embarked on a two-week dedicated eyesight campaign in the John Taolo Gaetsewe (JTG) school district from 12th – 22nd October 2021.



**TOP:** A student screened by optometrist, Vincent Mabitsela. **RIGHT:** Baitiredi T&C High School students queue for eye screening.

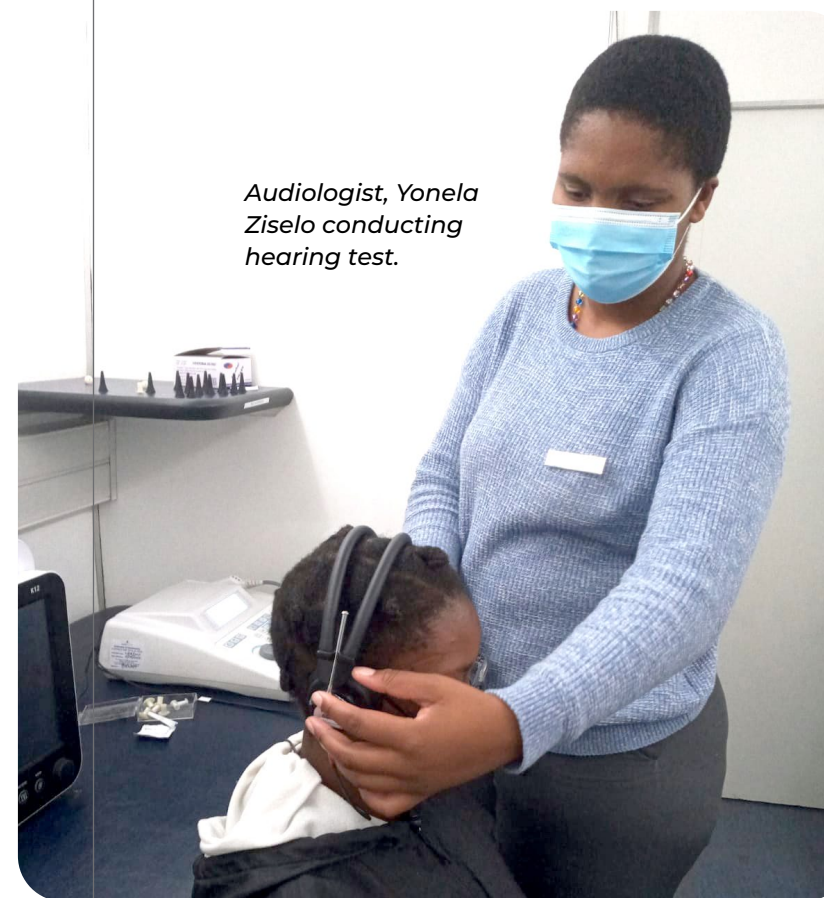
The Re a Fola eyesight campaign offered comprehensive eye screening to 303 students from Galaletsang High School and Baitiredi Technical and Commercial High School in Mothibistad, Kuruman. Dental and hearing assessments were also conducted with a professional nurse available for general health assessments.

**T**hursday, 14th October saw South Africa and the world celebrate 'World Sight Day' – held annually to draw attention to blindness and visual impairment.

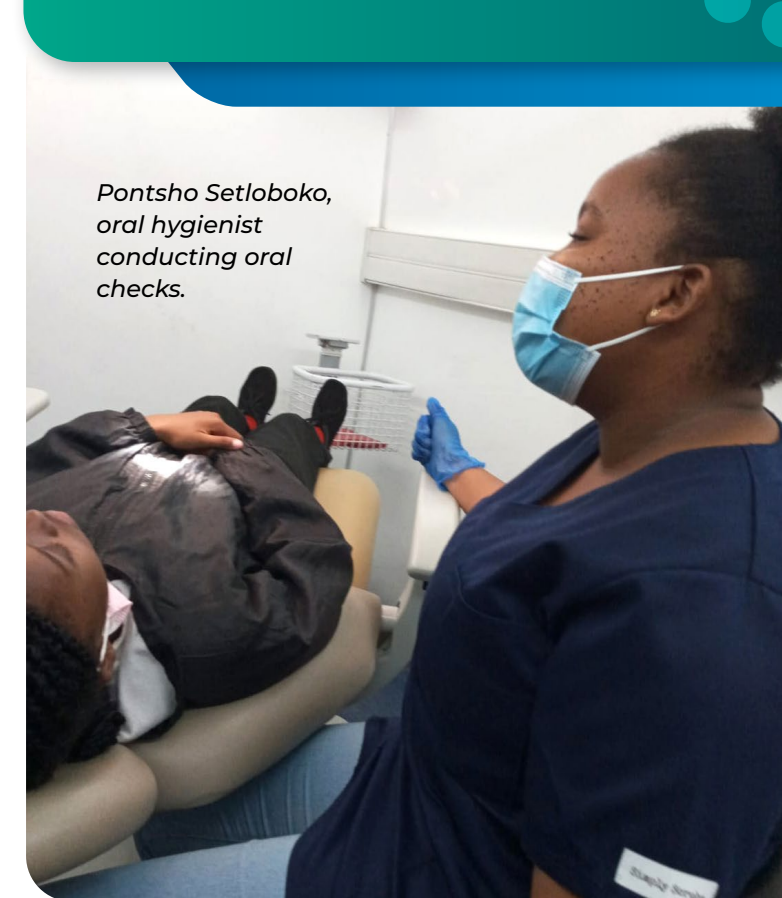
A recent study in Spain on children aged between 6 and 12 showed that 5.2% of poor academic performance is related to vision. Poor academic performance was independent and significantly affected by sex, age, near vision, hyperopia, binocular dysfunctions, and bad ocular motility. They concluded that "Vision plays a key role in optimum academic performance; consequently, the early detection of refractive errors and other visual problems is essential to improve the academic performance of schoolchildren."<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Alvarez-Peregrina, C.; Villa-Collar, C.; Andreu-Vázquez, C.; Sánchez-Tena, M.Á. Influence of Vision on Educational Performance: A Multivariate Analysis. Sustainability 2021, 13, 4187. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084187>



Audiologist, Yonela Ziselo conducting hearing test.



Pontsho Setloboko, oral hygienist conducting oral checks.

This recent initiative forms part of SIOC-CDT's Health and Social Welfare programme aimed at addressing a growing need in its beneficiary communities for accessible, affordable healthcare facilities. This is of particular importance in the very remote areas of the Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi sub-districts and John Taolo Gaetsewe district (JTG).

The school checks and assessments were held in the build up to the matriculation exams and spectacles were provided to those in need.

The team of multi-disciplinary professionals on hand included an optometrist, oral hygienist, professional nurse and audiologist appointed by SIOC-CDT, with MENSANA (XTEND) appointed to implement the project. Department of Health professionals joined the Re a Fola team at these clinics to add further support and the provision of any needed medications.

The schools programme will continue into 2022, with additional schools in both the Northern Cape and Limpopo communities already identified.

**"It has been a very successful initiative between ourselves and the Northern Cape Department of Education and Department of Health and is a clear indication of what collaboration between business and government can achieve."**

KGADI MAGONGOA, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE MANAGER, SIOC-CDT



# PHASE 3 OF THE SIOC-CDT

Covid-19 response plan

Covid-19 was the predominant feature of the year 2020 and into 2021, and to say that the pandemic had a negative impact on the beneficiary communities would be an understatement. It was a period of economic shocks and disruption.

SIOC-CDT commissioned a study by external researchers into how the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown implemented by National Government affected the beneficiary communities. This survey found that formal job numbers in the Northern Cape and Limpopo had fallen due to the substantial job losses experienced in 2020.

Combined with the setbacks experienced by many informal businesses in beneficiary community regions, the result was a fall in average household income that manifested as food insecurity in many homes.

At the same time many local municipalities faced budget cuts, which hampered their ability to offer social services. Several health facilities were overwhelmed by the needs of their communities. The education sector also suffered with schools closed for extended periods of time.

## SIOC-CDT'S COVID-19 RESPONSE WAS ROLLED OUT IN THREE FOCUSED PHASES

During **the first phase**, SIOC-CDT focused on:

- Supporting healthcare workers in 58 facilities with PPE and other consumables such as hand sanitisers and handwash soaps.
- Supporting vulnerable households and safe havens with food parcels, groceries and blankets.
- Resourcing isolation centres with beds, pillows and linen.

"While 2020 was undeniably difficult, SIOC-CDT is in the fortunate position of being equipped to support and strengthen our beneficiary communities. A windfall cash injection in the form of a dividend from Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd, and the network of strong relationships SIOC-CDT has built over time, has enabled us to implement the Covid-19 response plan and to help those who need it most."

VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

The current budget spend for Phase 3 is

# R4,743,919.00

The main objective in this phase was to bolster the health sector to cope with the pandemic and Government's requirements, while supporting those in the community who were economically most affected by lockdown.

**The second phase** response aimed to strengthen communities in the long run, beyond the pandemic and even beyond the life of the mine. The focus areas for this phase included:

- Support building the capacity of the healthcare system.
- Supporting people with disabilities.
- Assisting schools with readiness for reopening, keeping learners safe from the virus and salvaging the academic year.
- Providing a Covid-19 relief fund for SMMEs who were affected by the lockdown.

**The third phase** took place during 2021 and focused on assisting with and promoting the Covid-19 vaccine rollout.

The vaccination rollout project was approved by the Board on 28 May 2021 for a duration of twelve months. SIOC-CDT's mandate for this phase is to support the Department of Health in the John Taolo Gaetsewe, Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi districts to roll out the vaccination programme.

All items have been delivered and SIOC-CDT will be covering the expense for the provision of 5 gigabytes of monthly data for either a 6- or 12-month period dependent on the vaccination site requirements.



## SIOC-CDT HAS ASSISTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- 24 laptops and tablets were provided along with data and USB sticks to assist the Department of Health with the registration of individuals for vaccines.
- 24 vaccine fridges for storage of the vaccine were provided to facilities across the three regions along with 284 vaccine carriers of varying sizes.
- Surgical masks, gloves, needle disposal units, plastic aprons, surgical caps, sterile cotton wool buds, syringes, sterile water and more were allocated to the regions in calculated quantities to ensure that each facility had the appropriate PPE and items for vaccinations required.





# 2021 NELSON MANDELA DAY

SIOC-CDT lives by the values of Mandela

It all started in November 2009, during the sitting of the United Nations' (UN) General Assembly. The Assembly passed a resolution that from then onwards, on the 18th July every year, the world would celebrate this day as "Nelson Mandela International Day".

With this gesture, the UN globally recognised former South African President, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Madiba Mandela for his great contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. Mandela's legacy espouses many great values such as his dedication to the

service of humanity in the promotion and protection of human rights, the rights of children and other vulnerable groups and the fight against poverty, to name just a few.

SIOC-CDT shares this great leader's values. Every year, SIOC-CDT plays its part in observing and celebrating Mandela Day. In 2021, it was a year of continued pandemic.

Acts of humanity were even more needed than normal with many people having lost their livelihoods and poverty deepening in the most vulnerable populations.

A total budget of **R549,740.00** had been availed to support various projects for this humanitarian course, and feedback received thus far, is extremely positive.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

NELSON MANDELA

Realising the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and with an understanding of how exposed our beneficiary communities in the Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces are, SIOC-CDT felt a need to act swiftly. A cohort of five projects across five beneficiary communities were identified to serve as Mandela Day projects.

Each project was a collaborative effort with the relevant Social Development departments and local municipalities. The Kanako Social Responsibility (KSR) committee endorsed support for the identified projects in line with the Trust Deed and the Kanako Social Responsibility and Sponsorship Strategy.

### These were:

- Itsoseng Batsofe in Thabazimbi local municipality was identified for Limpopo province.



### For Northern Cape local municipalities:

- Kopanang Club for the Aged in Joe Morolong.
- Tswelopele Soup Kitchen in Gamagara.
- Lebelelang Disability Centre in Tsantsabane.
- Boipelo Jwa Bagodi in Ga-Segonyana.

A total number of 311 individuals benefitted from the various projects, with 43 children living with disabilities included in this total. The beneficiaries were provided with branded blankets and face masks and hand sanitisers. Some received food hampers and groceries (feeding schemes such as Tswelopele Soup Kitchen which provides daily cooked meals).



# OLIFANTSHOEK AND DIBENG INFILL HOUSING PROJECT

In Olifantshoek and parts of Dibeng, many senior citizens still occupy old and dilapidated houses built for them many years ago. Many of these houses do not have sound structures, some are conjoined into duplexes and many of them have now developed very wide cracks that threaten the lives of the elderly who occupy them. Their foundations too were not properly planned, given the sandy ground they are situated on. Most of the houses in the area still possess unprotected asbestos roofing, which although not proven, has potential to cause disease (asbestosis).

To address the identified housing needs by the municipality, SIOC-CDT in collaboration with Gamagara local municipality were able to put together a project proposal for approval by the Board of Trustees. Subsequently SIOC-CDT embarked on the process by appointing architects to lead a consortium of professional service providers to design and manage the implementation of the project.

## The project scope entails the following activities:

- Demolition of 90 unsound structures
- Providing temporary accommodation to 90 households
- Building 90 new 49.4 m<sup>2</sup> houses. (Olifantshoek Welgelee 70, Diepkloof 10 and Dibeng 10)
- Provision of electrical connections
- Provision of water and sewer connections
- Disposal of asbestos materials

Although this kind of project is undertaken with the best of intentions to benefit communities, the implementation commonly experiences challenges due to the differing expectations of community members of how it should be undertaken.



For this particular project, some of the challenges that have been encountered include local SMMEs that wanted to implement the project by themselves. This resulted in the initial contractor procurement process being aborted in August 2020.

Subsequently, a few challenges have arisen from appointments via the local development trust and poor responsiveness from the market to the published main contractor tender. This restricted options for contractor appointment and the tender had a warranted bias for local empowerment.

After reviewing the procurement strategy, the main contractor was appointed and was handed over the site on the 10th March 2021. Nine local SMMEs from Olifantshoek and Dibeng were selected through the procurement process to go through formal contractor development. The SMMEs have received initial screening and theoretical training facilitated by NHBRC (National Home Builders Registration Council).

Each of the subcontractors have been given two houses to build and on completion they will be given a further three houses each. This will make a total of 45 houses out of 90 built solely by the local SMMEs. The awarded packages will ensure that the SMMEs are able to upgrade their CIDB gradings upon completion of the project.

This is one of the critical capacitation processes for local SMMEs in the building construction sector.

SIOC-CDT has made available an amount of R76,288,645.17 (including VAT) to support this project. This budget is for construction as well as all of the fees associated with implementation. The main contractor is obligated to spend a minimum of 60% of the construction works budget (R56 million inclusive of VAT) on local enterprises (sub-contractors, material suppliers, plant hiring, etc).

The implementation of this project is progressing and is targeted for completion by the first quarter of 2022.



This project is one of importance as many of the owners survive on government grant income and cannot afford to repair or upgrade their houses. They are therefore sitting on a ticking time bomb which requires urgent attention.



# ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND 'CONVENIENT' WATER SUPPLY

Life saving and life changing for Northern Cape's Babatas community



## ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE AND RELIABLE WATER IS NOT ONLY CRITICAL, BUT A FUNDAMENTAL BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

sees it situated roughly 25km away from either Kuruman (Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality) or Kathu (Gamagara Local Municipality) – Babatas is too far from any available bulk municipal services and thus has no access to any established water or electricity supply.

As a largely residential and agricultural community, with a main source of income being livestock farming, water is of significant importance. At present, the area's small-scale agricultural activities rely on three old boreholes that the community has connected to a central tank from which households extract drinking water through a diesel-powered pump.

However, this supply is not adequate for both families and their animals. Residents are often forced to walk very long distances to fetch water from the streams when the water system breaks down.

This is often the case, especially given that residents are required to contribute towards the costly fuel required to extract water when the boreholes are in working order.

To rectify this, and assist in empowering the Babatas community, SIOC-CDT appointed engineers to design and manage the implementation of a far more sustainable, reliable and convenient water supply solution to residents of the Babatas community.

It is not just access to water that is key but convenient access that makes a fundamental difference to the social, health and economic welfare of a community. This belief led SIOC-CDT to commit to and initiate a R20m project for the provision of a sustainable, reliable and convenient water supply to residents of the Northern Cape's Babatas community.

Situated in Gamagara Local Municipality in the Northern Cape, Babatas covers approximately 261,942 ha of land. Due to its location – that

## The project scope entails the following activities:

- Appointment of professional consultants to proceed with designs, WULA (Water Use Licence Application) and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) applications.
- Investigate, drill, equip and commission up to 10 new additional boreholes to meet the demand – both now, and for a further 600 households anticipated in the future.
- Equip all four (4) additional boreholes with solar-powered pumps.
- Refurbish one (1) existing borehole and connect it to the Eskom electrical supply line.
- Appointment of contractor.
- Laying of approximately 8,500m of bulk supply pipeline (110 mm diameter, Class 9 uPVC) and approximately 7,500m of internal water reticulation network (75mm diameter, HDPE).
- Install three elevated water tanks (i.e. 2 x 50kl tanks and 1 x 30kl elevated fire storage tank).
- Fence off boreholes and elevation tanks.
- Construction of 5km gravel road to the reservoir, and
- Installation and connection of approximately 300 standpipes to bring water into the household yards.

## The appointed contractor was handed over the site to start work on the 16th September 2021. Currently the contractor has completed or is busy with the following activities:

- Site establishment.
- Excavations for reticulation pipes.
- Laying of bedding material for reticulation pipes.
- Laying of reticulation pipes.
- Excavations for bulk pipes.

The contractual completion date for the project is **March 2022**

“The benefits of a reliable, convenient and sustainable water supply for a community are enormous. Aside from a conveniently available water supply to all residents and animals leading to improved hygiene for the community, additional benefits include not only savings realised in household water extraction but, so too, the inevitable income generation created by temporary job opportunities associated with this project, with no fewer than 30% of said opportunities mandated to be filled by local suppliers and/or residents. At SIOC-CDT, we remain committed to our vision of empowering beneficiary communities to thrive beyond the lifespan of the mine through the implementation of sustainable socio-economic initiatives through partnership with key stakeholders. We express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to various stakeholders who are working with us to ensure the successful completion of this project, including the likes of Gamagara Local Municipality who have given us their commitment that all infrastructure developed for the Babatas community as a result of this project will be fully maintained and operated by the Gamagara Local Municipality through its technical services department, just like all other municipalities and Kathu Solar Park for its upfront commitment of a R1m contribution.”

VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT



# SCHOOL SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM AND GRADE 12

Learner interventions in 2021 show results

It is widely accepted that the South African education system is not performing as well as it should be, which constrains the number of skilled people in South Africa and, ultimately economic growth and national development.

Individuals from disadvantaged, under-resourced schools in both rural and urban areas are most affected by the challenges that the South African education system are plagued with. The average matric pass rate and bachelor pass rate for the SIOC-CDT beneficiary High Schools over the last five years clearly indicates that although there was a 10% improvement in 2019, both the general pass rate as well as the bachelor pass rate for these schools was well below national pass rates. The Senior Management Team (SMT) and learner intervention programme uses the 2019 pass rates as the baseline to measure project impact.

The SIOC-CDT Education Team led project assists the Northern Cape Department of Education with their Autumn, Winter and Spring enrichment classes. These classes are undertaken with the aid of educators whose schools are achieving above 60%. However, there has not been a significant improvement in many of these schools while others do not produce consistent performance. It was ascertained that these inconsistent results could be improved if the SMTs at the schools were greater capacitated for all of the organisation that these enrichment classes demand.

Previously, the fact that these camps were arranged by the Department of Education has led in many instances to a situation where responsibility for planning, implementation and day-to-day management of camps became a function of the Department of Education instead of that of the management teams of those schools where learners are from.

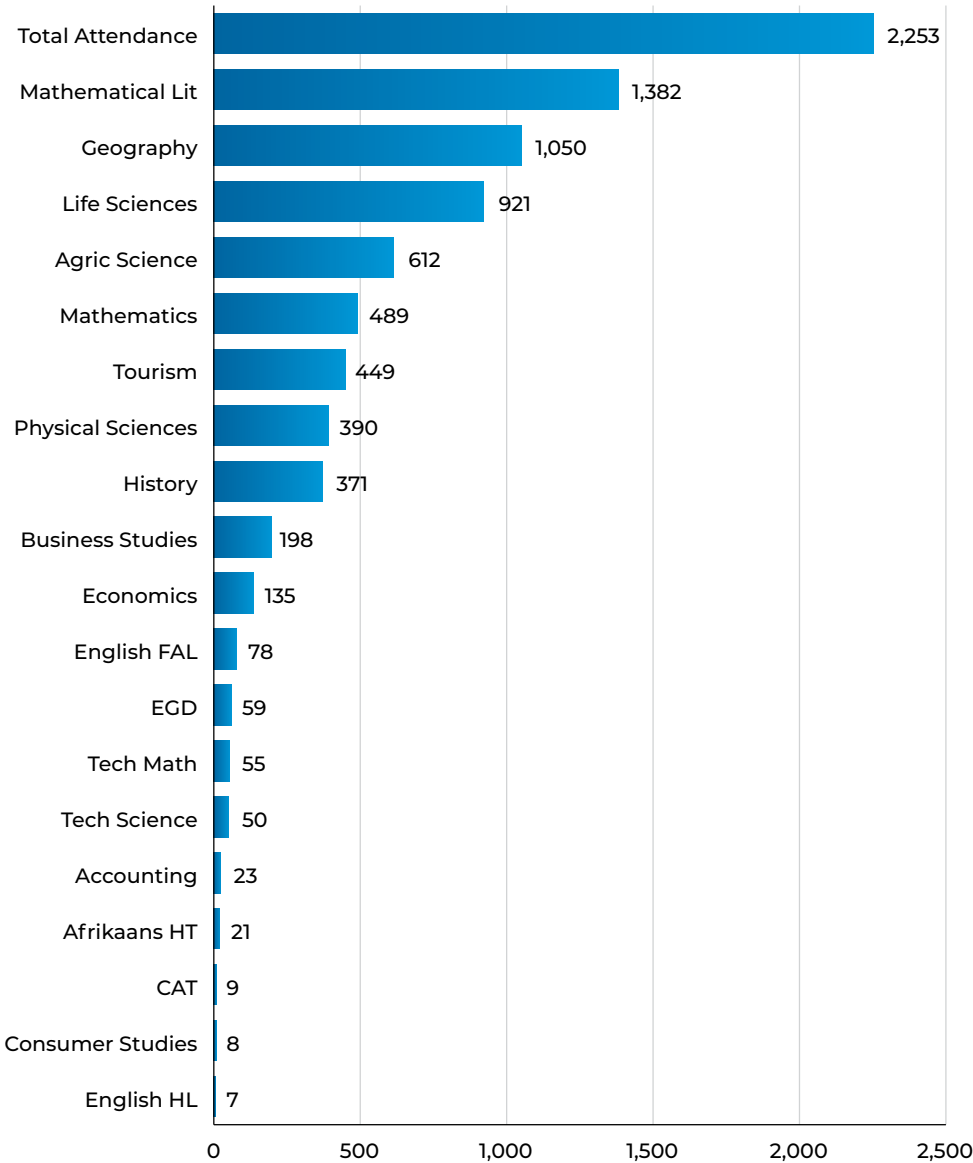
It is clear from research that even in instances where challenges like high levels of poverty, escalating discipline problems, substance abuse, violence, language barriers, and social problems, could impact Senior Management Teams' (SMTs') initiatives of improving the NSC results, the prognosis of achieving success is still more positive when the management teams of schools are the drivers of initiatives to enhance learner performance. Principals of high poverty schools in USA, England, and Australia improved academic achievement through their involved, active leadership.

This entailed principals and school management teams driving the process of academic improvement through change and best practices, even though they were from high-challenge contexts.



## SPRING ENRICHMENT CLASSES

JTG average attendance





As leadership involves influencing others to achieve goals and objectives, the Education Team proposed that schools and leadership teams were supported to lead the crucial task of creating and implementing a vision for their matric teachers and learners to improve the NSC results.

After monitoring supplementary education activities and subsequent consultative engagement sessions with principals of SIOC-CDT beneficiary schools the SIOC-CDT Education Team discussed the idea of Senior Management Teams taking full responsibility for the effective implementation of their own Grade 12 supplementary classes initiative developed in accordance with the following negotiated guidelines/conditions:

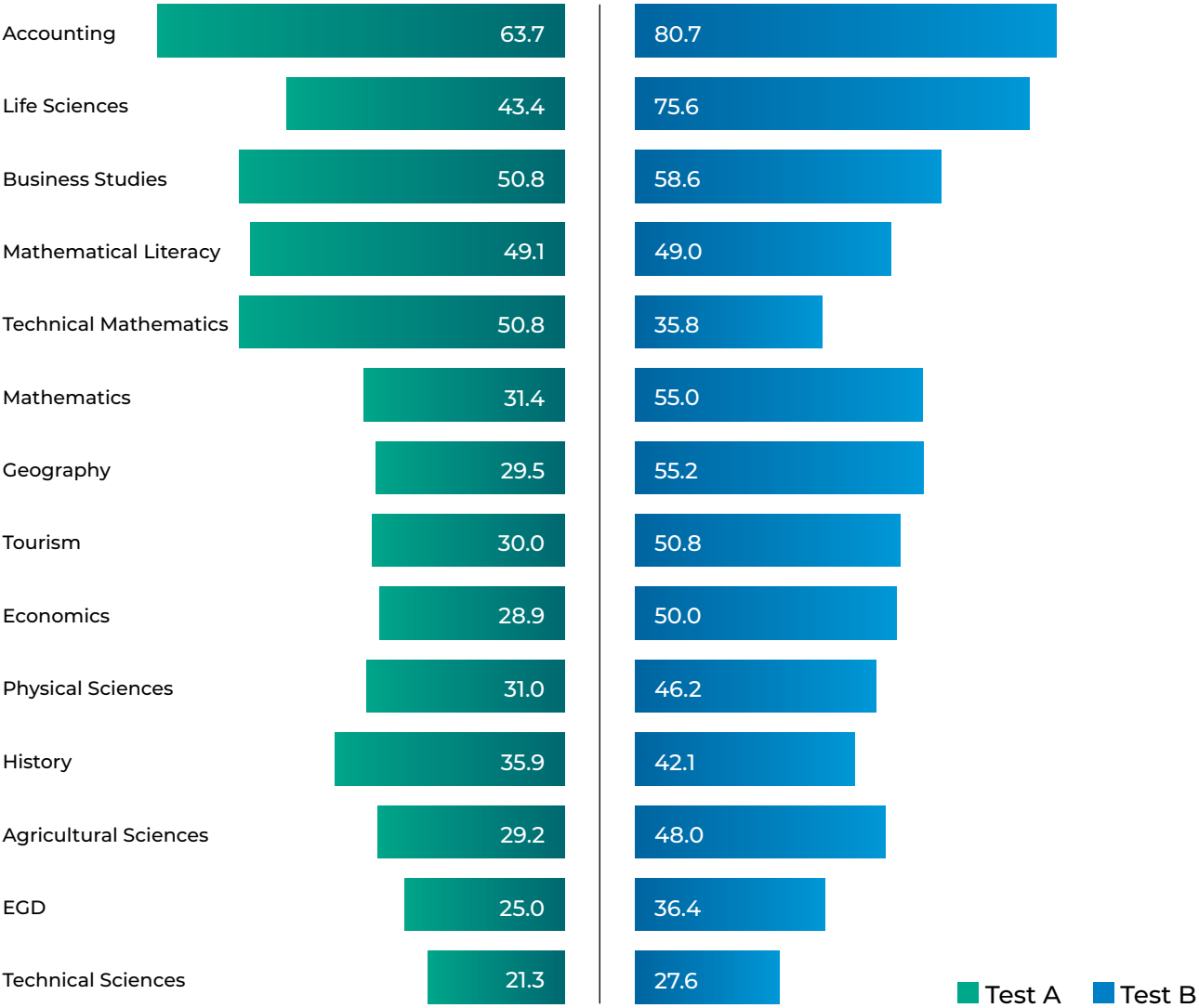
- a) The principal and SMT of each school would lead the process at their school.
- b) Each school would be availed funding to conduct supplementary education sessions for 15 days.
- c) Each school would be supported to develop its own 15-day plan. The 15 days could be spread over school holidays or weekends depending on each school's contextual reality.
- d) The programme for each school would focus on the four subjects of greatest need for that school. The four subjects of greatest need would be identified through an analysis of NSC results of previous years.
- e) The number of tutors (teachers) per school would be determined via a ratio of 1 tutor: 25 learners.
- f) Competent tutors would be identified with the help of Curriculum Advisors/Senior Education Department district officials, i.e. usually the best with history of achieving average 70% in NSC exams in recent past 3 years.

- g) Curriculum advisors from the respective district of the Department of Education would take the responsibility to develop a supplementary curriculum and learning material for identified subjects.
- h) Each school would have the following supplementary education staff component:
  - i. Centre Coordinator (the principal or a teacher delegated by the principal)
  - ii. Admin person (assisting and working under the direct supervision of the principal). The admin person would:
    - Collect and submit tutor documents required for processing of remuneration.
    - Keep and submit attendance registers – tutors and learners.
    - Liaise directly with SIOC-CDT Education Team members and tutors.
  - iii. Food handlers (catering for learners on contact days), and
  - iv. Tutors for the identified subjects of greatest need for each school.

Curriculum advisors from the Department of Education and the SIOC-CDT Education Team monitored contact sessions and four subjects were identified as those with the greatest need for supplementary assistance (determined via analysis of NSC performance data). These are mathematics, physics, geography and life sciences.

The project added another cohort for 2021 of learners drawn from all SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities. An estimated R10,539,000.00 was required to finance the supplementary learning for 3,557 Grade 12 learners from all beneficiary communities during the academic year. The budgets covered catering, teachers, centre managers, admins and food handlers.

PRE-AND-POST TEST RESULTS  
Average % achieved by subject and test code



To invest in our children, and to improve their lives, there can be no doubt that accessible and effective education – from formative years to high school and beyond – key. This is further underpinned by the South African constitution in which S29(1) states<sup>1</sup>, “Everyone has the right (a) to a basic education, including adult basic education, and (b) to further education, which the state through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible.”

<sup>1</sup> saconstitution-web-eng.pdf (justice.gov.za)



## 2021 SEES THE LAUNCH OF THE ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROJECT

To assist people living with disabilities



The assistive devices project is one of many projects that SIOC-CDT has put into place to help drive its health and social welfare strategy for the most vulnerable beneficiary community members; including the elderly and people living with disability.

### THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PROCURED IN 2021:

✓ 1 077 wheelchairs ✓ 2 522 walking aids ✓ 366 hearing aids

Approved in November 2020, the revitalised Community Health and Social Welfare Strategy initiated the Assistive devices for people with disabilities project in January 2021. Working with the Northern Cape Provincial Department of Health, assistive devices were procured and distributed to people with disabilities to enable them to undertake common and everyday tasks that are difficult to perform without the correct devices and tools.

A programme for the delivery of wheelchairs to identified beneficiaries has started, with 60 wheelchairs delivered in the last week of November 2021 and additional deliveries expected to be done on a weekly basis until

February 2022. Amongst these assistive devices are motorised wheelchairs that are custom made to aid individual beneficiary's mobility requirements to enable them to participate in everyday life. The capacity building project for children with a disability (CABDIC), that was launched in 2018 also continued into 2021. Most schools in the Northern Cape are not equipped to cater for children with disabilities, thus the project focuses on training, mentoring, improving awareness and provision of mobility devices. 350 Mobility devices have been distributed since launch with 129 Department of Health rehab therapists trained, and rural outreach clinics reaching 306 parents/caregivers and ECD practitioners.

The assistive devices and capacity building project for children with a disability aims to make a difference between a person with disability living a life of exclusion and a person that is able to participate in everyday life.

## SIOC-CDT FACILITATES ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND SEAMLESS PROCUREMENT

For businesses and SMMEs alike

SIOC-CDT has launched its SMME Online Procurement Portal – a virtual marketplace to connect buyers with SMME suppliers. Buyers can host their requirements, with SMMEs able to register to access these prospects. The same portal also contains resources for SMMEs should they lack certain requirements or require assistance to be able to access and capitalise on these opportunities.

“The SMME Online Procurement Portal will create a large, centralised pool of businesses to choose from – thus facilitating competitive pricing, value for money and reduced costs of sourcing for the buyers in addition to a reduced cost for SMMEs of seeking out opportunities via increased exposure to procuring organisations. Services include SMME vetting, database management and tender and quotation bulletins with relevant resources and support as needed.” VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

As part of its ongoing enterprise development focus, SIOC-CDT's SMME Online Procurement Portal will serve as a marketplace for SMMEs to interface with larger companies in the mining sector and related businesses by, amongst other things, easily accessing uploaded Request for Information (RFI), Request for Quotations (RFQs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs). This will enable local enterprises within SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities to seamlessly provide quotations and proposals.

Interested stakeholders include Kumba Iron Ore and Assmang, The Northern Cape

Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Anglo American, Mamba Cement, Transnet, Lesedi Solar Park and Kathu Solar Park, et al.

South African SMMEs employ 10.8 million people (seda quarter 1 report 2019) out of the 16 million jobs available in the country. However, SMMEs in South Africa have a failure rate of more than 60% within the first three years. Despite showing a healthy start-up phase, most fail to reach the mature stage that enables them to provide employment opportunities and contribute to the GDP of the country.



Some reasons cited for SMME failure include lack of access to markets, finance and credit; onerous compliance and labour laws; poor infrastructure; high levels of crime; failure to plan; poor management, leadership and an unskilled workforce.

Whilst opportunities do exist, the reality is that with no structured platform for SMMEs to access them, many remain unaware and thus unable to participate – thereby creating a gap where suppliers are not able to access information on opportunities as well as buyers not having access to a pool of potential suppliers in a structured manner or platform. A further complication is that of suppliers not necessarily meeting all the

requirements when it comes to responding to RFI, RFPs or RFQs. The goal of the SMME Online Portal is to narrow this gap for both buyers and suppliers – in turn, broadening SMME opportunities and in that, reduce SMME failure rate.

This online portal targets SMMEs in beneficiary areas in the JTG and ZF Mgqawu Districts of the Northern Cape and Thabazimbi local municipality in Limpopo as well as corporate entities listing procurement opportunities directly. It also allows for the collation of reliable SMME data by SIOC-CDT to further aid the communication of relevant opportunities (both local and international) on a much wider scale.



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However, SMMEs in South Africa have a failure rate of **more than 60%** within the first three years.

The SMME Online Portal functionality allows for procurement opportunities to be loaded onto the portal with SMMEs' details and supporting documents loaded and verified. Suppliers are registered on the portal and access is provided to the businesses concerned and SMMEs via a login feature. SMMEs access said opportunities and respond or, if they require assistance, can access it via links on the actual portal itself. Suppliers can check and select from a pool of suppliers as well as upload RFI, RFPs and RFQs, receiving responses to these online from the qualifying SMMEs. SMMEs can also request to receive notifications for opportunities within their area of expertise and respond accordingly.

Benefits for both parties include the reduced cost of doing business, ease of access to opportunities and access to support, increased exposure, supplier pre-validation, decision making and reporting, online listing and submission of RFPs, RFQs and RFI, alerts and e-commerce together with reduced interaction with suppliers on queries and a creation of a reliable SMME database.

It is expected that SIOC-CDT will fund this portal for three years until such time as additional funders are brought on board.

**The link to the portal is:**

**<https://www.sioc-cdtmmes.co.za/sitehome>**

## THE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

A skills capacitation project in partnership with Kumba Iron Ore

Small businesses that render services as part of mining and environmental projects are at a disadvantage when competing against larger, more established businesses with more robust cash balances and operations. Many SMMEs within the beneficiary communities also struggle with tender pricing, project management and even execution of some of their construction projects. Understanding business finances and responding to tenders were also identified as challenges.

The Enterprise Development Capacity Building Programme aims to empower Kumba Iron Ore and SIOC-CDT suppliers by providing them with training as part of their supplier development drive.

The training equips local suppliers with the knowledge that they need to execute tasks according to their contract while managing their business effectively.

By the end of December 2021, the aim is to have 80 local SMMEs trained. 67 SMMEs have already been trained. The target for 2020 was 50 SMMEs trained and this was reached.

The project went live on 2 September 2020 with training in accounting and construction management presented by reputable education institutions such as the University of Cape Town, Accounting Made Easy and Project Link.

### THE CURRENT TRAINING COURSES ARE:

- **Construction Management** – University of Cape Town
- **Project Management** – Project Link
- **Accounting** – Accounting Made Easy
- **Contractor Development Training** – Accredited consulting company
- **Tender Training** – Accredited consulting company





# **SIOC-CDT INJECTS OVER R10 MILLION INTO SMME COVID-19 RELIEF SUPPORT**

For SMME sustainability across its beneficiary communities

The outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent national lockdown implemented by the South African government had a significant and disastrous impact on many small business operations with the accompanying regulations seeing a severe curtailment of many businesses' ability to operate. As part of its comprehensive Covid-19 relief programme, SIOC-CDT implemented a specific and dedicated SMME Relief Fund initiative to help ensure the survival of many small businesses within its beneficiary communities.

**T**o ensure the provision of an effective support mechanism to SMMEs across its beneficiary communities, SIOC-CDT conducted a needs assessment survey to determine the needs of SMMEs on the ground and created a Relief Fund. These funds were, and continue to be, invested in the various beneficiary communities across the Northern Cape and Thabazimbi in Limpopo, in support of black-owned SMMEs that were operational for at least six months before the onset of Covid-19 in South Africa (March 2020).

SIOC-CDT is co-managing the two funds established, namely a grant relief fund and a hybrid relief fund.

## **GRANT RELIEF FUND**

Of the total SIOC-CDT contributions received, 40% are allocated towards the NEF/SIOC-CDT Covid-19 Grant Relief Fund. A minimum of R10,000.00 (earmarked for informal SMMEs) and maximum R100,000.00 (for formal SMMEs) is granted per transaction, as approved by the Regional Project Steering

Committee on a per-project basis. The target beneficiaries of the grants are SMMEs that have been severely affected by Covid-19 and the national lockdown – at least 51% black-owned small businesses by South African citizens with preference given to women, people younger than 35 years old, and people with disabilities.

## **HYBRID RELIEF FUND**

The Hybrid Relief Fund is a combination of grant and loan funding for formal SMMEs and consists of 60% of the SIOC-CDT contributions received. Applicants apply for R250,000.00 minimum in funding, of which 40% is funded by SIOC-CDT and the remainder by the NEF. The final amount is approved by the NEF Investment Committee on a per-project basis. Beneficiaries are required to have relevant and proven experience and/or qualifications, and previous business loans need to be paid up before the SMME qualifies for the hybrid fund. The target audience for this fund are commercially viable businesses with a sustainable business plan.

Of the total SIOC-CDT contributions received, **40%** are allocated towards the NEF/SIOC-CDT Covid-19 Grant Relief Fund. **Minimum R10,000.00 (earmarked for informal SMMEs) and maximum R100,000.00 (for formal SMMEs)** is granted per transaction.

As at mid-December 2021, a total of 483 businesses have been paid by the SIOC-CDT SMME Covid-19 Relief Fund.

This is made up of 151 formal businesses and 332 informal businesses. The total amount of disbursements to date is R10,946,000 out of the R13,074,000 approved for beneficiaries. This translates into an actual disbursement

of 84% of approved fund applications. These businesses cover a wide range of services and activities from hair salons, grocery outlets and fast-food services through to beauty parlours, shoemaker and repair outfits, car wash and newspaper distribution, et al. within the Ga-segonyana, Gamagara, Joe Morolong, Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi local municipalities.

**“We exist to serve our beneficiary communities as effectively as possible. The SMME Covid-19 Relief Fund is an example of our commitment to provide for our communities under even the most challenging conditions.”** VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT



# FESTIVE *Season's Greetings*

We wish you a safe, healthy and enjoyable festive season. We wish to thank all of our stakeholders for working so collaboratively and proactively with us this year to overcome the challenges that we have all faced and to help us attain our set goals. It has been another year of a different way of working and of pulling together to ensure that sustainable and productive projects that empower and assist our beneficiary communities have rolled out in the most effective ways. We hope that this festive season is spent with those you love. As the health scientists advise that we are facing a potential fourth wave of Covid-19 during this December month, let us all do everything we can to safeguard ourselves and heed to the health protocols. We look forward to meeting you again in January 2022 for another powerful year of collaboration and progressive partnerships.



**from** Vusani Malie (CEO of SIOC Community Development Trust ), The Board of Trustees, Executive Management and all SIOC-CDT employees.



## TRUSTNEWS

3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER ISSUE – 2021

NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

[www.sioc-cdt.co.za](http://www.sioc-cdt.co.za)