

TRUSTNEWS

1ST QUARTER ISSUE – 2022

NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The 2021 Stakeholder Day event ignited the urgency in which the year 2022 had to start. During this event, as SIOC-CDT we had a positive conversation with our stakeholders from various sectors i.e. provincial and local government, business, non-governmental sector players, interest groups and communities at large within our beneficiary communities.

It is from this annual platform and many other stakeholder engagement activities that we, as an organisation, get to report on achievements of the year and receive input and views to plan for the year ahead.

From such, the SIOC-CDT Board Members and Executive Team kick-started the year by engaging in an oversight visit to the infrastructure projects implemented for beneficiary communities of the Thabazimbi local municipality in Limpopo. There is remarkable progress and these projects will bring about a lot of change in the lives of these communities in aspects of education, health and social welfare. Already, a youth centre set-up in collaboration with the municipality had opened its doors to serve the youth, read about it in this issue.

Congratulations go out to all matriculants of the class of 2021 who rose above all adversity to achieve their good results. We have schools in our beneficiary communities, both in the Northern Cape and Limpopo that came top in the respective province top performers' lists. Most notable is our 2022 bursary cohort. SIOC-CDT is proud to support those hard-working youth who are hungry for education.

The water infrastructure project in Babatas is near completion and the details are shared in this issue. Also covered herein is the Olifantshoek and Dibeng infill housing infrastructure project which is well under way and a set of houses have already reached practical completion and have been handed over to beneficiaries.

Our Re A Fola mobile clinic continues to criss-cross the two provinces, ensuring that the growing need for accessible and affordable healthcare is provided to the beneficiary communities. The John Taolo Gaetsewe region has been one of the areas this mobile clinic has been a regular sight in this first quarter of 2022.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

Refilwe Sebogodi
Editor



2021 Stakeholder Day 2 December 2021



A SUCCESSFUL, FULLY VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER DAY HELD IN DECEMBER 2021

The annual Stakeholder Day is deemed one of the most important days of the year for SIOC-CDT. It is a platform for SIOC-CDT to report on its performance and respond to comments, inputs and concerns during the reporting period in question. It also aims to facilitate interaction between SIOC-CDT's Trustees and the Executive Committee and its material stakeholders i.e. Provincial and Local Government, development partners, community groups and civil society; all for the common goal of advancing sustainable community development through strengthened relationships.

Due to the advent of government regulations in observing the state of national disaster declared under the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Stakeholder Day took place virtually on 2 December 2021. The event could only be held virtually and not the hybrid approach

that was initially envisaged due to the then looming fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic as warned by health experts.

Be that as it may, the event was a huge success, recording the following participation statistics:

- 770 participants across the web and broadcast streaming platforms.
- A reach of 33,000 via the local Kurara FM live stream.
- Activated live streaming by 526 participants via the Waterberg Stereo link.
- A reach of 391 across Facebook and YouTube channels.

The YouTube link for the virtual Stakeholder Day 2021 is:
https://youtu.be/7q_8N0zz46I

SIOC-CDT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' OVERSIGHT TOUR

of Thabazimbi infrastructure projects

The projects visited in February were the Northam Primary Healthcare Clinic, Chrome Mine Primary School, Groenvlei Secondary School, Mabogopedi High School and Bizniz in a Box.

On Monday, 28 February 2022, the SIOC-CDT Board of Trustees embarked on a day-long programme to visit strategic infrastructure projects undertaken by the Trust in the Thabazimbi local municipal area.

Accompanied by SIOC-CDT's Executive Committee, the tour was designed to not only provide a practical overview of the progress of key projects, but also to enable the joint identification of any bottlenecks, to discuss solutions and to provide an opportunity for Board members to interact with the beneficiary stakeholders for each project.

NORTHAM PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CLINIC

Located in Northam, the work undertaken at this primary healthcare facility by SIOC-CDT, in partnership with Dikuno tsa Sechaba and the Department of Health in Limpopo, has encompassed the upgrading and renovation of the facility and equipping it to provide optimum service to beneficiary communities.

Says Staff Nurse Ephenia Maswanganye: "The facility is already doing wonders in alleviating the pressure, especially in the pre and postnatal wards. We now have an increase of beds that came with the newly built wards, and this helps us cope to a greater level now".

SIOC-CDT contributed R23,791,289.00 and Dikuno Tsa Sechaba Trust has contributed R5 million (VAT incl.) into this project. Seven SMMEs were sub-contracted, and 49 labour opportunities created.

SIOC-CDT Board visits Northam Clinic. (Left) Staff Nurse, Ms Ephenia Maswanganye and Board member Ms Tracey Henry (Right) on a walk-about in the newly built and equipped Maternity Ward for pre and postnatal care.



CHROME MINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Chrome Mine Primary School, situated in the Chrome Mine area, has been the recipient of upgrading and renovations for the benefit of its 958 learners. These consisted of the construction of a new five-classroom block and a new ablution facility block, installing electrical requirements and renovation of all its existing classrooms.

Says Mr N Seilane, Principal of Chrome Mine Primary School, "the upgrade and renovations provide conducive learning environments for our learners, and we hope to see the benefits in their academic performance in 2022".

This project received a SIOC-CDT investment of R23,650,316.66 (VAT Incl.)

Ten SMMEs were sub-contracted by the main contractor, with 47 labour opportunities created.



Board and staff entourage at the Chrome Mine Primary School.

MABOGOPEDI HIGH SCHOOL

The Board and Executive Management team were received by the principal of the school, Mrs Manganyi and the Chairperson of the School Governing Body (SGB), Mr Ndebele.

The Board had an opportunity to view the multi-purpose hall under construction for use by Mabogopedi High School.

On completion, the hall will cater for a capacity of over 1,200 people. This infrastructure will provide the school with a space to host educational, arts and cultural activities.

"We are looking forward to the completion of this hall as it will help us as a school by providing a great environment from which we can also manage our matric examinations due to the high number of matriculants we have," said Mrs Manganyi.

SIOC-CDT has invested R27,172,630.60 (VAT Incl.) into this project. Nine local SMMEs have been sub-contracted and 34 labour opportunities have been created by the project.



Visit to Mabogopedi High School multi-purpose hall: (Left to right) Board member Mr Fezile Kies; School Principal Mrs Manganyi; Projects Manager Mr Peter Mashiane.

SIOC-CDT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' OVERSIGHT TOUR

of Thabazimbi infrastructure projects

GROENVLEI SECONDARY SCHOOL

Situated in the Skierlik area, this secondary school is a mixed-boarding institution that caters to learners from surrounding farms in the area.

The upgrade and renovation of this facility aims at benefiting the 258 local learners.

A budget of R35,981,014.93 (VAT Incl.) has been allocated by SIOC-CDT to this project.

Eight local SMMEs were sub-contracted by the main contractor, and 36 labour opportunities have been created. The main contractor of the project was a joint venture comprising two SMMEs from the Thabazimbi local municipal area.

BIZNIZ IN A BOX

The entourage also visited a Bizniz in a Box beneficiary. 27 Containers have been sponsored by SIOC-CDT for the Bizniz in a Box project. Ms Kelebogile Tsieco who operates a fast-food business from her container, that is located opposite the Northam Shopping complex, expressed her gratitude for the support she has received. "Although I still have a need for further support i.e., chairs and tables as well as shade where customers can comfortably sit and dine," says Kelebogile, "the container has made a difference so far and I hope to steadily grow from here on out."



Top left: SIOC-CDT Board members visiting one of the Bizniz in a Box outlets in Northam. Top right: (Left to right) Ms M Mabilu; Board Chairperson Mr L Delpont and Mr S Botha listen to owner Ms Kelebogile Tsieco.



SIOC-CDT SPONSORED THABAZIMBI Youth Centre opens doors

On Monday, 31 January 2022 SIOC-CDT, the Thabazimbi Local Municipality, New loveLife Trust and Marekele SANPARKS (as social partners), celebrated the opening of the Thabazimbi Youth Centre.

It's well known that South African society is grappling with social ills that are particularly fuelled by unemployment and poverty. These challenges have a direct bearing on the youth who, as they try to rescue themselves from a situation of joblessness and poverty, often get caught up in crime, drug and alcohol abuse. Teenage pregnancies are also common.

To open more doors of hope for the youth in Thabazimbi, SIOC-CDT, the Thabazimbi Local Municipality and Marekele SANPARKS have collaborated to provide the youth with a centre that provides a number of services whilst offering empowerment.

New loveLife Trust, as an NGO focused on issues of mental and physical health and Youth Leadership Development was the fourth natural partner in this collaboration.

The official handover of this facility was attended by both Mr Vusani Malie, the CEO of SIOC-CDT and the Mayor of Thabazimbi, Cllr Tokkie Swanepoel, who also gave the keynote address. The Speaker of council, Cllr Butana Tlhabadira and Member of the Mayoral Committee, Cllr John Fischer were also in attendance along with Councillors and leaders from various government departments.

SIOC-CDT provided funding for the extensive renovation of the building and equipped the centre with furniture and state-of-the-art Information Technology connectivity. Thabazimbi Municipality made two facilities available (Regorogile Extension 1 and Rooiberg) as accommodation for the centre and its satellite. The Municipality will also be responsible for sustaining the operations post the funding period, through their Youth Office (Youth Desk).

SIOC-CDT SPONSORED THABAZIMBI

Youth Centre opens doors

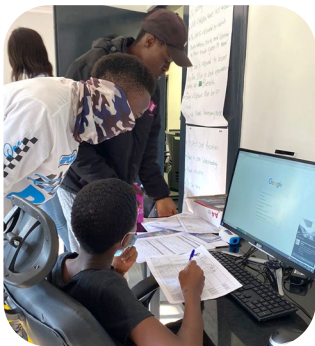


SANPARKS (Marekele National Park) are contributing by equipping participating young people with training or skills on environmental conservation and tourism to encourage youth to consider careers in those areas.

The total sponsorship SIOC-CDT has made available for this centre is R13,012,346.00. This financial investment encompasses the renovations, the furniture, connectivity and operations for the next 36 months.

THE YOUTH CENTER FOCUSED SERVICE OFFERING HAS ALREADY:

- Created 46 job opportunities for the next 36 months of operation i.e. 12-groundBREAKERs, 20-Mpintshis, 2-Youth Centre Project Managers, 1-Counsellor, 1-Administrator, 2-Programme Coordinators, 2-General Assistants, 2-Groundsman, 2 Bi-weekly staffers, 2-Cleaners;
- Started reaching out to youth through activations, events, mobilisation initiatives, radio and social media to empower them with positive health and personal development messaging for behavioural change;
- Commenced with increasing awareness of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights through health talks and campaigns to decrease early pregnancy and cases of Gender Based Violence, increase condom and contraceptive uptake and use, and refer young people for healthcare services;
- Increased youth consciousness of National and Global initiatives that have a positive impact on the environment, food security, nation building and social cohesion;
- Increased youth uptake of Psychosocial Services through Youth Centre Counsellors to address youth mental health, bullying and a sense of hopelessness;
- Addressed youth inactivity and obesity as well as non-communicable diseases by introducing recreational activities; and
- Reduced Covid-19 infections amongst youths through increasing the provision of Covid-19 Screening Services and promoting vaccination uptake.



MATRIC 2021 RESULTS

show inspiring achievements

The recently released Matric 2021 results show encouraging achievements across our beneficiary communities. Despite a difficult two years, often fraught with many challenges for our learners, our Matric class succeeded in delivering an increased pass rate of 72.09% from that of 66.65% at the end of 2020.

A total of 3,507 learners, across our communities, sat for the 2021 NSC (matric) examinations. Of those, a total of 2,357 passes and 323 distinctions were achieved, with 931 learners obtaining access to Bachelors.

As part of the focus on education as an essential cornerstone for success, SIOC-CDT supported our beneficiary schools with supplementary classes focused on those areas displaying the greatest need – Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Sciences, Agricultural Science and Geography.



We were gratified to note a significant increase in marks, particularly in the areas of Mathematics and Physical Science.

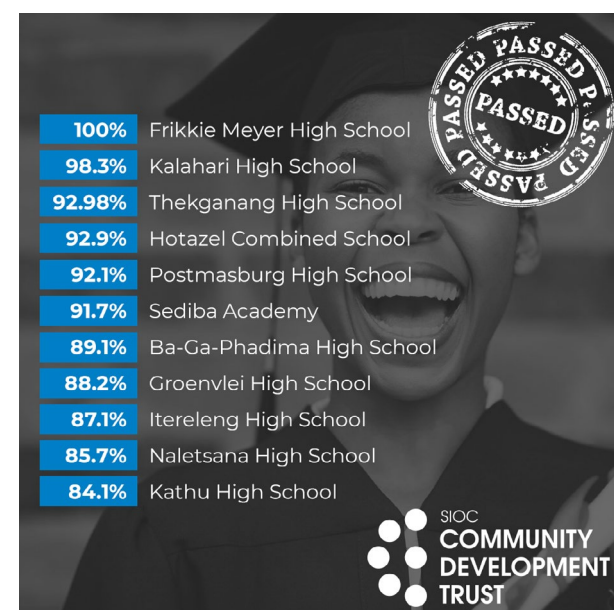
Considering that 1,788 students sat exams at the end of 2017, the 3,507 who wrote matric in 2021 shows an almost 100% increase.

The stats show a gradual and steady increase in the number of our learners obtaining a matric pass over the years – 2017: 1,276; 2018: 1,399; 2019: 1,427; 2020: 1,900; 2021: 2,357. This is both encouraging and inspiring to witness.

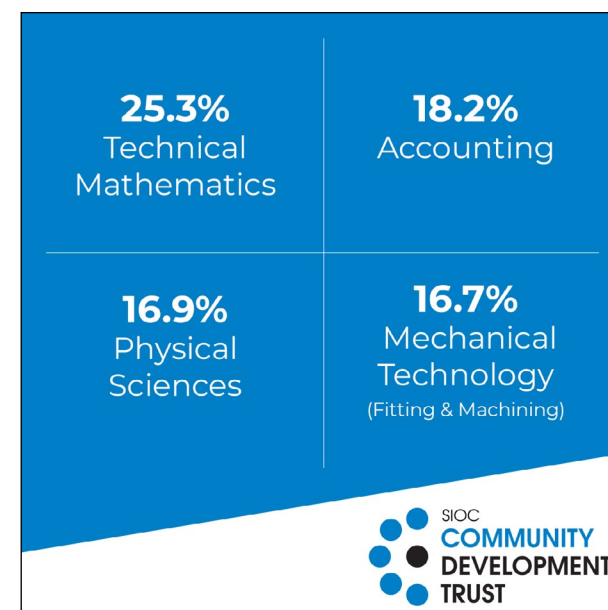
MATRIC 2021 RESULTS

show inspiring achievements

In 2021, there were some notable accomplishments, and we extend well deserved congratulations to our top performing schools – all of whom achieved a pass rate of above 80%:



A full curriculum, with access to all subjects as stipulated by the Department of Education, saw our learners achieve the greatest percentage increase (Matric 2021 vs Matric 2020) in the following areas:



The six-week-long matric examination schedule ran from 27 October to 7 December 2021. Our sincerest thanks to all educators and staff who worked tirelessly throughout their holiday season to ensure the efficient and completed marking of all our learners' examination papers.

“We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our Matric learners – for their dedication and commitment during what is, for many, the most stressful period of one’s school career. They can be immensely proud of their achievements, and we wish every single learner all of the very best with their future.”

VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

THE BABATAS WATER PROJECT

reaches 60% completion

The Babatas Water Project is at the 60% completion phase. The site was handed over to the appointed contractor on 21st September 2021. Site establishment, excavations for reticulation, the laying of bedding material and the laying of the actual pipes as well as excavations for bulk pipes have all kicked off. To date, 23 jobs have been created in this project, which will provide vital access to water to the Babatas community.

The R21.9 million (VAT excl.) project for the provision of a sustainable, reliable and convenient water supply to residents of the Northern Cape’s Babatas community is one of SIOC-CDT’s key infrastructure projects.

Situated in Gamagara Local Municipality in the Northern Cape, Babatas covers approximately 261,942 ha of land. Babatas is too far from any available bulk municipal services and thus has no access to any established water or electricity supply.

Approximately 8,500 m of bulk supply pipeline (110 mm diameter, Class 9 uPVC) and approximately 7,500 m of internal water reticulation network (75 mm diameter, HDPE) are being laid and a 5-kilometre gravel road being built to the reservoir. 300 Standpipes to bring water into the household yards are also being installed and connected.

The internal reticulation and excavation for house connections have been completed, with the excavation for bulk water process still in progress. Although the contractual completion date for the project was 7 March 2022, it is expected that the project will be completed towards the end of April 2022.



Buffer Tank constructed at Babatas water project.

“The secure water supply that will result from this project will significantly assist the community from both a work and a household perspective due to the agricultural focus of many of the residents.”

VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

OLIFANTSHOEK AND DIBENG IN-FILL HOUSING PROJECT

over the halfway completion point



In Olifantshoek and parts of Dibeng, the infill housing project has been a major demolition and construction project for SIOC-CDT and the Gamagara Municipality. Temporary accommodation for 90 local households was provided whilst houses were demolished, asbestos removed and new houses constructed and handed over to the occupants.

The project scope for the infill housing project (in collaboration with Gamagara local municipality) was:

- The demolition of 90 unsound structures.
- The provision of temporary accommodation to 90 households.
- The construction of 90 new 49,4 m² houses. (Olifantshoek Welgelee 70, Diepkloof 10 and Dibeng 10).
- The provision of electrical connections.
- The provision of water and sewer connections.
- The removal and disposal of asbestos materials.
- New fences provided for each household.
- The installation of geysers.

Many challenges have been navigated to reach the point that the project is at today.

Some of these included local SMMEs that wanted to implement the project by themselves. This resulted in the initial contractor procurement process being aborted in August 2020 and a new procurement process being put into process.

The Main Contractor was appointed in early March 2021, with the agreement that 60% of the local content had to be sub-contracted to local suppliers. Whilst this process has not been without its own challenges, the following results have been achieved.

By March 2022, 33 new houses had reached practical completion and been handed over to the beneficiaries in Welgelee.



Whilst the solar geysers were an unfortunate challenge, with faulty installations resulting in geyser leakages, this was also successfully navigated with the appointment of a new contractor that replaced and repaired all the incorrectly installed geysers.



This project has had far-reaching results, above and beyond the supply of safe and well constructed housing. The SMMEs that were subcontracted have all had safety protocol training, are able to upgrade their CIBD gradings upon completion of the project and have been capacitated as local SMMEs within the local building construction sector.

The SIOC-CDT investment for this project is R76,288,645.17 (including VAT).

This project has been an immense undertaking that has brought with it many lessons and many successes. The success of this project is not only the provision of safe housing, but also the development of local SMMEs in the construction sector.



SIOC-CDT'S RE A FOLA MOBILE CLINIC

took glaucoma awareness to the JTG Taxi Council

As part of World Glaucoma Week (6–12 March), the Re a Fola mobile clinic embarked on a two-day special campaign dedicated to Glaucoma awareness for the Taxi Industry in the John Taolo Gaetsewe (JTG) district.

Re a Fola mobile clinic began its comprehensive health services scheduled for March–April 2022 for JTG in earnest on the 1st March. Throughout this period, the mobile clinic covered various district clinics and schools as 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. Coinciding with the global celebration of glaucoma week, special attention was given to this event. The 9th and

10th March 2022 were set aside for glaucoma awareness with a focus on providing eye screening to JTG taxi operators and owners. This initiative was a collaboration between SIOC-CDT, Northern Cape's JTG District Department of Health and the JTG Taxi Council.

The Re a Fola mobile clinic was stationed at the Zebra Taxi Rank in Kuruman on Wednesday, 09 March 2022 from 09h00 till 16h00 and 35 patients were screened,



2 referred for cataract surgeries and no glaucoma cases detected. The service moved to the Kuruman Taxi Rank on Thursday, 10 March 2022, where a total of

26 patients were screened, 5 were given spectacles prescriptions, 3 referred for cataract surgeries and no glaucoma cases were detected.

March 6–12, 2022 was celebrated as 'World Glaucoma Week' – held annually to draw attention to the dangers of vision loss from glaucoma.

WHAT IS GLAUCOMA, ITS IMPACT ON YOUR EYES AND HOW TO AVOID IT:

- Glaucoma is a condition that damages your eye's optic nerve. If left untreated it can cause blindness.
- The condition primarily affects adults over 40, but young adults, children and even infants can have it.
- Although the condition may be caused by environmental factors, glaucoma is hereditary and individuals with a family history of glaucoma are encouraged to come for screening to detect it at an early stage.
- Healthy habits such as maintaining a healthy weight, physical activity, controlling blood pressure and avoiding smoking can help you avoid vision loss from glaucoma.

"This has been a very important initiative and well embraced by the taxi owners affiliated to the JTG Taxi Council. As a healthy vision related service, that makes it important for the safety of the drivers, taxi commuters and general road users in the district."

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

THE BURSARY COHORT FOR 2022 ANNOUNCED

The bursary project is an application-driven process with successful applicants receiving a bursary for their chosen field of study. The bursary covers full registration and tuition fees, accommodation, books, laptops, backpacks, a Microsoft Office licence and a quarterly stipend and assistive devices to students living with a disability. The 2022 Bursary application process concluded in January 2022 and 80 successful candidates received confirmation of their bursary approval.

Over the past years, SIOC-CDT has funded more than 500 students to access higher education in its various beneficiary communities and this includes recent cohorts recruited annually from 2018–2022.

The current total number of students supported for the 2022 academic year is 178, enrolled at various public higher learning institutions.

2022 COHORT

The 2022 bursary cohort consists of 80 successful candidates out of the 116 applications that met minimum requirements. The detailed breakdown of the 2022 bursary project application process is below:

Local Municipality	Number of applications	Applicants meeting minimum requirements	Number of applicants interviewed	Successful candidates
Thabazimbi	67	33	17	15
Tsantsabane	38	7	7	5
Gamagara	62	17	17	12
Ga-segonyana	132	27	26	23
Joe Morolong	117	31	27	24
Disability (Gamagara)	1	1	1	1
Total SIOC-CDT Beneficiaries applied	417			
Other Municipalities	643			
TOTAL	1,060	116	95	80

Congratulations to our successful candidates!

Thabazimbi	15
Tsantsabane	5
Gamagara	12
Gasegonyana	23
Joe Morolong	24
Disability (Gamagara)	1



THE MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY BEING EMBARKED ON ARE:

- ✓ Bachelor of Education
- ✓ BCom Accounting
- ✓ Bachelor of Laws

The diversity of the chosen fields of study this year is tremendous, with bursaries awarded for qualifications such as a BA in Ancient Language, Advanced Diploma in Entrepreneurship, a B.Sc. Actuarial Science and many more.

The bursary project programme has been designed to:

- Empower financially disadvantaged youth from the SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities by providing them with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at a higher education institution (HEI).
- Provide bursary beneficiaries with financial and psychosocial support to unlock and maximise their potential, enabling them to complete their qualification.
- Strengthen linkages between secondary schools and HEIs, influencing the academic curricula to be aligned to the requirements of the local labour market within the SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities.
- Increase awareness and knowledge of tertiary opportunities.
- Increase the number of students enrolling at institutions of higher education.
- Increase the number of students who complete their studies in a timely manner.

“For students from economically challenged backgrounds, achieving a tertiary education is an opportunity to change their economic status at both a personal and family level. However, their financial restrictions often impact on their ability to achieve academic success. Without adequate financial resources available in institutions of higher learning, students’ experiences of poverty may be only marginally alleviated, which merely extends and reproduces systemic conditions of poverty.” VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

‘SCIMATHUS’ AND ‘ACCESS FOR SUCCESS’

providing second chances in helping to make students’ dreams come true



Access to education, and that of higher learning, is key to a sustainable life. SIOC-CDT’s involvement in the ‘SciMathUS’ and ‘Access for Success’ programmes is providing a second opportunity for educationally disadvantaged learners to be accepted to higher education studies in Mathematics, Science and other STEM-related areas. SIOC-CDT – in collaboration with SciMathsUS (developed by the University of Stellenbosch) and SIOC-CDT’s ‘Access for Success’ programme (supported by the Cape Peninsula University of Technology) – assists and funds students from our beneficiary communities to provide them with this chance.

According to the *Post-School Education and Training Monitor – Macro-Indicator Trends* report released in March 2021 by the Higher Education Department, only 6% of the South African population have university degrees. A further 6% had diplomas and 3.4% held technical and vocational education and training (TVET) certificates. The Department claims that: “The low number of citizens with degrees compromised the country’s economic competitiveness.”

The report also goes on to say that: “It still takes too long for a significant proportion of students to complete their degrees, and the percentage of students who drop out before the completion of their degrees remains fairly high.”

The year-long SciMathUS programme therefore strongly aligns with the reality of the type of support that serves the youth in South Africa. The programme allows

students to improve their NSC marks that, in turn, allows them to be able to reapply for admission into higher education institutions. It also provides academic literacy support, mentoring and psychosocial support to help bridge the gap between school and university – ultimately preparing them for study success.

SIOC-CDT’s involvement in this programme over the last few years has reaped great rewards for our students.

In 2020, all 21 students who participated improved both their physical science and mathematics results and qualified for STEM-related programmes in higher education. Of these 21, nine went on to receive 2021 SIOC-CDT bursaries.

More recent results have been as inspiring. Twenty-five students from our beneficiary communities took part in the 2021 SciMathUS programme.

Their results saw an increase, on average, from 58.7% (Physical Science end 2020) to 72.6% (Physical Science end 2021, post SciMathUS) and from 54.6% (Mathematics end 2020) to 69.3% (Mathematics end 2021, post SciMathUS). In addition, three of our learners placed in the overall ‘top 10’ for Mathematics and one learner for Physical Science.

Applications for participation in this year’s SciMathUS programme were concluded in early February. A total of 80 learners were accepted and have already commenced with their ‘second chance’.

The recently launched ‘Access for Success’ programme is a University of Technology preparation programme with Mathematics and Physical Sciences as target subjects, supporting learners from the SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities to gain access to a University of Technology.

‘Access for Success’ has as its academic goals the remediation and improvement of student content knowledge in Mathematics and Physical Sciences, the provision of foundational skills and the increase in student retention that will, ultimately, see an increase in the graduation rate. This programme enables participating students to improve their NSC marks to qualify for admission to a university of technology (already endorsed by Cape Peninsula University of Technology that will provide offtake for the successful

learners). Further, similarly to the SciMathUS programme, it also provides mentoring and psychosocial support to bridge the gap between school and university and prepare them for study success as well as career guidance.

Created to augment the existing bursary and SciMathUS initiatives, this new programme sees no fewer than 50 learners receiving access to post-school STEM education and training opportunities this year. Between the two programmes, 130 learners are currently being supported in 2022.

“A strong focus on education, training and skills development sees us collaborating with various stakeholders across several areas. Key objectives include ‘providing bridging opportunities for learners (second chances)’ and ‘providing new opportunities for access and success in higher education’. Initiatives such as the ‘SciMathUS’ and ‘Access to Success’ programmes are key, and we are gratified to be able to offer these life-changing opportunities to learners across our beneficiary communities.”

VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

EMPOWERING OUR BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES

one entrepreneur at a time

The Enterprise Development Capacity Building Programme aims to empower Kumba Iron Ore and SIOC-CDT suppliers by providing much needed training to help equip these small-, medium- and micro-sized enterprises with the necessary tools to grow and thrive.

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. To help level the playing fields, the Enterprise Development Capacity

Building Programme (originally launched on 2 September 2020 as part of our suppliers' development drive), provides training focused on equipping local suppliers with the knowledge they need to execute tasks – according to their contract, whilst still managing their business effectively.



It aims to create an enabling environment for small-, medium- and micro-sized enterprises to thrive and grow, to provide business development support so that SMMEs can innovate and upgrade for growth, to be a catalyst and an enabler of income-generating opportunities for enterprises and to strengthen strategic partnerships for sustainable and impactful programmes. The training provided is focused on equipping said SMMEs with the knowledge and tools needed to become 'supplier' ready. This, in turn, enables them to realise and maximise any opportunities available from both the mine and SIOC-CDT. Post training, these procurement opportunities are then shared with the relevant SMMEs who are now able to deliver in a way perhaps not previously possible.

With training initially provided in accounting and construction management and presented by reputable education institutions such as the University of Cape Town, Accounting Made Easy and Project Link, it has since expanded its impact to include several more training opportunities.

With a growth fund of no less than R20 million approved for this coming year, we are excited to build on the traction and momentum already achieved to ensure that SMMEs across our beneficiary communities are equipped and able to seize all available opportunities.

Since its launch – a total of 146 SMMEs from Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Tsantsabane, Joe Morolong and Thabazimbi have received training across the following disciplines:

- **Construction Management Course** – University of Cape Town
- **Finance & Accounting Made Easy** – Accounting Made Easy
- **Project Management Scheduling Course** – Project Link
- **Applied Project Management** – Project Link
- **Tender Training** – KPC Consultants
- **Microsoft Project Software Licence**
- **Technical Training** – NHBRC

“The Enterprise Development Capacity Building Programme is directly aligned with our goal of helping local enterprises become capable of growing, sustaining themselves and providing improved livelihoods for entrepreneurs and those that depend on them.”

VUSANI MALIE, CEO – SIOC-CDT

SMME RELIEF FUND COMPLETES THE DISBURSEMENT

of all allocated funds

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 an SMME Relief Fund in Limpopo and the Northern Cape for small businesses.

THE SMME RELIEF FUND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS WERE:

- The business must be at least 51% black-owned by South African citizens, and
- The business must have been operational for at least 6 months prior to March 2020.

Preference was given to companies owned by women, people younger than 35 years old, and people with disabilities.

The SMME Relief Fund consisted of two managed funds – a Grant Relief Fund and a Hybrid Relief Fund in partnership with the National Empowerment Fund. Beneficiaries for the Hybrid Relief Fund were required to have relevant and proven experience and/or qualifications, and previous business loans needed to be paid up before the SMME qualified for the hybrid fund. The target audience for this fund was commercially viable businesses with a sustainable business plan.

The Grant Relief Fund contributions from SIOC-CDT have been disbursed to 327 informal businesses and 162 formal businesses.

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 washes and newspaper distribution, et al. within the Ga-Segonyana, Gamagara, Joe Morolong, Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi municipalities.

The hybrid fund received seven applications, currently under review.

The total investment by SIOC-CDT into the SMME Relief Fund is
R13,764,935.00



100% of the allocated funds have been disbursed and the monitoring and evaluation phase is now in process. This process evaluates the efficacy of the SMME Relief Fund on the whole and is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

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