

TRUSTNEWS

4TH QUARTER ISSUE – 2022

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SIOC
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST



EDITOR'S NOTE

As 2022 draws to a close, many organisations – irrespective of the sector in which they operate – may be reflecting on the year that was. This often includes a review of the various programmes and projects undertaken, organisational progress and alignment with strategic objectives. SIOC-CDT is no different. Hence, it hosted its annual stakeholder day on 1 December 2022 in Kathu to report to its stakeholders on organisational performance for the preceding year and create an opportunity for dialogue with material stakeholders.

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There can be no doubt that 2022 has been a year filled with positive achievements. Our recently revised Community Development Strategy, endorsed by our Board of Trustees, will align us even closer to our ultimate objective – that of addressing the needs of our beneficiary communities through the planning and implementation of necessary and relevant programmes and projects. This newsletter issue shares a glimpse of our reviewed strategy.

We also share the success story of a critical public infrastructure upgrade in the Thabazimbi beneficiary area, focused on ensuring accessible and quality healthcare services to the communities we serve. Read more about the official handover of the recently completed Northam Clinic upgrade.

Probably one of our greatest successes this year is our collaboration with the Gamagara Local Municipality, which saw the provision of habitable and asbestos-free housing to the elderly and vulnerable within our communities. No fewer than 89 families are now safely, and happily, ensconced in their new homes.

I am sure we all agree that education is key, and our youth are the future! Thus, a key focus of the Social Welfare component of our Community Development Strategy remains firmly focused on education. We remain committed to leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to empower our youth with the skills necessary to increase, and take advantage of, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Our sincerest thanks to loveLife, our implementation partner responsible for the execution of the various skills' development programmes across the Youth Centres we fund.

Reliable infrastructure is key to socio-economic growth and sustainability. In 2020, the upgrade of a 12-kilometre stretch of the Laxey-Padstow road was commenced. Early November saw great strides taken towards the completion of this project, with completion expected during December 2022. We've included an article in this issue on the progress to date.

Significant strides have also been made on interventions aimed at developing and growing the local business community. This saw SIOC-CDT launching a new 'Intensive Business Development Support Programme'. Known as the 'Kgodiso Project', its underlying objective is to empower up to 50 potentially scalable SMMEs across all five of its beneficiary communities.

It has been a very successful and productive year for SIOC-CDT. We extend our thanks to each one of you for taking the time to acquaint yourself with the work that we do. We will continue to share further updates with you during the course of 2023 and beyond.

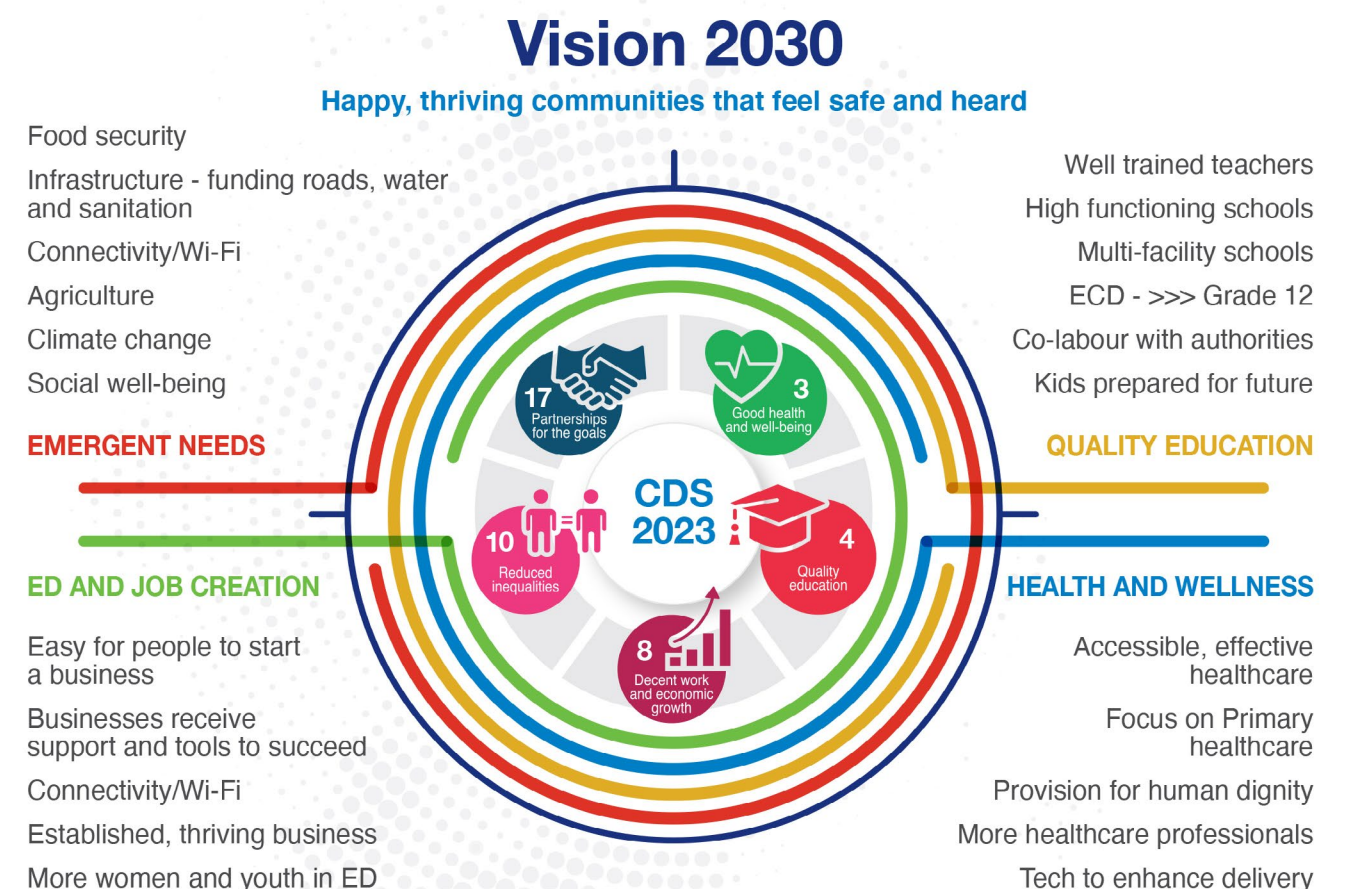
Our very best wishes to all for a safe and joyous festive season.

Happy reading.

Refilwe Sebogodi
Editor

THE REVIEWED PATH – Our community development strategy

This year, as part of its commitment to improving the lives and livelihoods of its beneficiary communities, SIOC-CDT embarked on a comprehensive review of its Community Development Strategy (CDS). The goal: to align even closer to its objective of achieving 'Vision 2030' while simultaneously ensuring complete inclusivity and transparency in its decision making.



The recent Covid-19 pandemic has yielded many lessons. A significant insight was the need to 'do things differently' in order to be able to continue operating effectively even in times of unprecedented conditions.

The process included a two-day workshop with the Board of Trustees in early 2022, followed by focused one-on-one

engagements with individual members of the Executive Management Team (EXCO) and the CEO. Several line functions were also pulled in in order to gather even more insight from within the organisation. As crucial as these insights were, of even greater importance was the need for feedback from all stakeholders including, most particularly, SIOC-CDT's beneficiary communities.

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Consequently, during July and August 2022, SIOC-CDT embarked on a series of community roadshows across all five beneficiary communities, through which the organisation intensely engaged with government and community leaders including the tribal authorities, sector formations i.e. businesses, NGOs and individual community members. The aim – to re-connect with communities post the Covid-19 pandemic, provide feedback on issues previously raised and share updates and progress reports on several SIOC-CDT projects.

These community roadshows also served as a platform for community members to provide SIOC-CDT with feedback on the actual impact of its projects on their lives. The feedback received, and subsequent report, was of enormous value during the strategy review process.

A key component of this process also saw the team involved in leading the CDS review process conduct a thorough review of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. This was done to ensure alignment on a global scale.

SIOC-CDT is confident that this process has resulted in the development of a much more aligned and appropriately focused Community Development Strategy and one that is far more responsive to the developmental challenges faced by its beneficiary communities. It factors in both the socio-economic impact of previous interventions while also proposing many new approaches that align directly with the exact socio-economic standing of its beneficiary communities.

As a result, SIOC-CDT's reviewed CDS is aligned to five of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This has seen the inclusion of an additional focus area, transforming SIOC-CDT's original CDS from a three- to a four-pillar strategy:

- Enterprise Development
- Community Health and Welfare
- Education, Training and Skills Development
- Emergent Needs

Implementation of the reviewed CDS will begin in 2023. It will see both the conception and implementation of projects far more closely aligned with, and in response to, the needs of its beneficiary communities.

“The reviewed CDS is the result of broad consultation, particularly with our beneficiary communities, and takes into account our experience and insight with regards to sustainable community development. We are therefore confident that its implementation will achieve sustainable community development among our beneficiary communities that, in turn, will assist them to increase their revenue streams to allow them to remain prosperous beyond the life of the mine.”

VUSANI MALIE – CEO, SIOC-CDT



SIOC-CDT LAUNCHES KGODISO PROJECT for SMME support

On 1 November 2022, SIOC-CDT launched a new ‘Intensive Business Development Support Programme’. Known as the ‘Kgodiso Project’, its underlying objective is to empower up to 50 potentially scalable SMMEs across all five of its beneficiary communities.

Executed in collaboration with the Small Development Enterprises Agency (SEDA), the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Anglo Zimele, loveLife and the Local Economic Development (LED) offices of all five municipalities, the Kgodiso Project will run for the next 12–36 months with an investment of approximately R50 million being made available by SIOC-CDT.

This project serves as part of SIOC-CDT's strategic objectives for 2022 to intensify its efforts in funding truly viable SMMEs across its communities. The SIOC-CDT Covid-19 relief fund efforts in 2020 and 2021 highlighted the need for business support programmes at both the entrepreneurial level as well as at the business (legal entity) level. The Kgodiso Project was developed with the relief fund key learnings in mind.

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BUSINESSES APPLYING FOR THE KGODISO PROJECT ARE BEING EVALUATED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- The business must be primarily operating in one of the beneficiary municipal areas of:
 - Gamagara Municipality
 - Ga-Segonyana Municipality
 - Joe Morolong Municipality
 - Tsantsabane Municipality
 - Thabazimbi Municipality
- The entity must be a registered business with CIPC documentation and valid tax clearance certificates.
- Both operational and start-up businesses will be considered.
- The entity must agree to enter a business management training programme or related programmes as per recommendations from SIOC-CDT's assessment panel.
- The business must be at least 51% black-owned by South African citizens.
- The applicant must be a full-time employee of the business.
- The applicant business must demonstrate how the support will lead to its growth in a sustainable manner.
- The business must demonstrate how the programme will enable it to trade outside of the mining industry.
- New permanent jobs should be created.

Information sessions, to ensure that any interested parties understood the requirements needed for participation, were held just prior to the official launch of this project. From 1 November to 14 December, application support for businesses was also made available at a wide variety of venues across each municipal area.

A maximum number of ten businesses will be selected per municipal area. Innovative business ideas will be welcomed and the entrepreneur's aptitude, attitude, self-motivation and skills will be assessed via a psychometric-type questionnaire.

The support provided to the selected participants will include both a financial and non-financial element with the final support determined by the needs of each business. Over and above a financial grant or interest-free loan in support of each business's growth, the non-financial support provided, in conjunction with the SEDA, NYDA and other development partners, will focus on several areas. These areas include market and feasibility studies, business planning and advisory, mentoring, technical skills, licences and permits, training and educational support, psycho-social support and any other interventions needed to increase market share, create access to new markets or generally assist with business growth.

Applications will be ranked according to a point-scoring system with the top 200 businesses undergoing a further review by SIOC-CDT's Enterprise Development (ED) unit and its project partners. Thereafter, a Business Development Support panel will conduct a further review and assessment, after which the final 50 businesses will be selected.

A thorough gap analysis of each of the selected 50 businesses will be conducted by the Business Development Support panel to gain a deep understanding of the specific requirements of each qualifying business and the exact nature of support required. Interested parties can apply via SIOC-CDT's procurement portal

<https://www.sioc-cdtmmes.co.za/sitehome>, already in use by SIOC-CDT for the registration of potential suppliers. Support for all SMMEs that require application assistance is available from 1 November to 14 December at application access points. A full list of these is available on <https://www.sioc-cdt.co.za/kgodiso-project/>.



An intensive monitoring and evaluation phase will form a key part of this project. It will be conducted over a period of 12-36 months to ensure that all necessary support interventions, as determined by the initial gap analysis, are executed and that the set targets are achieved.



The project goals are clear. It aims to ensure that at least 70% of the start-up businesses selected are both operational and stable within an initial three-year cycle, with profitability by year three. For those operational businesses selected, the goal is to achieve growth in annual revenue as per the targets set flowing from the due diligence assessments.

"We are excited by the enormous opportunity this project will bring to so many SMMEs across our five beneficiary communities and we extend our sincerest thanks to all our project partners for their invaluable support. Together we are committed to intensifying our support for these businesses as we work together to ensure both sustainability and growth, leading to greater economic development for all."

VUSANI MALIE – CEO, SIOC-CDT

JUBILATION AS UPGRADE OF NORTHAM CLINIC IS COMPLETED

11 November saw the official handover of the upgraded Northam Clinic for public use. This facility, which has always operated as a small-scale healthcare provider, with countless service challenges over the years, has been transformed into a fully equipped and highly functional healthcare clinic.

Northam Clinic, in the Waterberg District, is one of 57 clinics in the district. It services most of SIOC-CDT's beneficiary communities – and beyond, covering several areas across the North West province.

An escalating population and the subsequent increased demand on service delivery, coupled with a lack of sufficient resources, had caused a very serious health service delivery challenge for the Limpopo Department of Health. Most of the local community rely on public healthcare services given their inability to afford private healthcare. This was exacerbated by increased demand from additional areas across the North West province, including the informal settlement of Smashblock, several farming

communities in Koedoeskop and various mining communities in Amandelbelt, Tumela and Thabazimbi.

In addition, Northam Clinic also operated as a feeder clinic to Thabazimbi Hospital for several services, including maternity services. Congestion at the previously smaller Northam Clinic facility often resulted in a lack of privacy for mothers before, during and after labour.

To address this crisis and ensure access to professional healthcare services for its beneficiary communities, SIOC-CDT – in collaboration with Dikuno tsa Sechaba Community Development Trust – committed to the upgrade of this facility.

“We are enormously grateful to SIOC-CDT and Dikuno tsa Sechaba CDT for making resources available to ensure that Northam Clinic is upgraded to a level that can provide adequate healthcare services to our community members. Collaborations such as these are vital for improving the lives of our communities. We now need to ensure that everyone – community members, patients and staff – maintain and care for this facility to ensure it can provide for our people for many years to come.”

CLLR. MORRIS MATABOGE, EXECUTIVE MAYOR, WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

The final estimated construction costs stand at **R16,029,906** (excl. VAT).

THE IMPROVED FACILITY NOW BOASTS:

- One first-stage labour room (pre-labour)
- Two new labour rooms (delivery)
- One postnatal ward (with three beds)
- Four consulting rooms
- One counselling room
- One new pharmacy
- Two furnished managers' offices
- A furnished boardroom
- A new reception and waiting area
- A fully equipped kitchen and staff room
- An ablution facility
- Medical equipment
- A paved driveway and parking facility
- Wi-Fi and a back-up generator

The upgrade of Northam Clinic has ensured that this facility now meets the standards required for National Health Insurance and it is one of the pilot facilities in the Waterberg district.

The official hand over was attended by the Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality (CLlr. Morris Mataboge), representatives from both SIOC-CDT and Dikuno tsa Sechaba Trust, officials from the Limpopo Department of Health as well as community members from Northam and surrounding areas.



SIXTY LEARNERS RECEIVE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY AND FIRST AID TRAINING

as part of SIOC-CDT's commitment to youth skills development

No fewer than 60 learners have received training in Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) and First Aid training as part of SIOC-CDT's commitment to the empowerment and skills development of youth across its beneficiary communities.

The 60 youths, from the Olifantshoek and Tsantsabane communities, recently received their accreditation in OHS and Basic First Aid Training Level 1 and 2. In partnership with loveLife (South Africa's largest youth leadership, life skills and sexuality awareness programme), this

programme saw the participants both trained and assessed by certified service providers prior to receiving their accreditation certificates. A key purpose of this training is to ensure that these young people are empowered and better equipped and positioned for the job market.



SIOC-CDT's Community Development Strategy on Health and Social Welfare aims to enhance the lives of all individuals across its beneficiary communities. A key focus is to develop and equip its youth with the necessary skills required to enhance their lives and, critically, increase their employability. loveLife is responsible for managing the implementation of all

Youth Centre Projects currently funded by SIOC-CDT in the Gamagara, Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi local municipality areas. A key success indicator is the investment in youth skills development. Held during the months of October and November 2022, this training aimed to promote holistic youth health while simultaneously developing youth leadership.

“We are grateful to SIOC-CDT for all its efforts in contributing towards the development of our youth. The impact of these programmes is immense and has such a positive effect on our communities. The youth are eager to acquire skills in order to enhance and create future opportunities, and programmes such as these divert their attention from destructive things such as alcohol, drugs, teenage pregnancies, etc.”

FLOYD MPOLOKENG, LOVELIFE PROJECT MANAGER FOR GAMAGARA AND TSANTSABANE

AGRICULTURAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY

for Thabazimbi youth

SIOC-CDT recently funded an agricultural development and learnership programme for no fewer than 150 youth from the Thabazimbi Youth Centre. The goal: to provide these youths with the necessary training to equip them with agricultural and farming skills.



In line with SIOC-CDT's objectives to provide beneficiary communities with the skills and training needed for the sustainability of their livelihoods, this recent training took place due to the identification of the agricultural sector as one of the economic activities of interest in the Thabazimbi area.

The programme is administered by loveLife and accredited by AgriSeta (the statutory body responsible for the accreditation of agricultural learnership skills training).

Training commenced with theoretical classes on 8 September 2022 and is scheduled to run for eight months. Learners will attend classes two days a week, followed by three days of practical training each week. Learners will receive a monthly stipend of R1,300 for the duration of the eight months. The Learning Organisation (TLO), who is the supplier of the programme and contracted to AgriSeta, will facilitate the theoretical training and placement of the learners during the practical phase.

Of the 150 learners enrolled, several have previously participated in loveLife projects. As none of these youths are currently employed, this programme offers a great opportunity for the furtherment of both their studies and future employment opportunities. Currently only available to youths in Grade 11 (and above), future plans include extending this training to learners in lower grades in an attempt to help mitigate the rate of school dropout in the Thabazimbi area.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THIS PROGRAMME INCLUDE:

- To create interest among the youth and to help guide them towards agricultural farming as a very viable career option and source of employment.
- To empower youth with the agricultural knowledge and skills needed to allow them to take advantage of employment opportunities including that of potentially operating as small-scale entrepreneurs.
- To ensure that the participating youth receive the necessary accredited qualifications that are compliant to national SAQA standards. These skills and qualifications will enable them to receive funding loans for start-ups to run their own small-scale agricultural operations or businesses.
- To equip the programme graduates with comprehensive social behavioural change knowledge.

"After mining, agriculture is the second largest alternative economic sector driving the economy of Thabazimbi. Most community members easily identify with this sector, with many youths informally exposed to agriculture just by virtue of the activities around the area in which they live. However, they may not have been able to focus on it as a potential job creation opportunity. It is our hope that this programme will create interest for many and hopefully go on to produce entrepreneurs in this sector itself. We are enormously grateful to the support provided by SIOC-CDT and the opportunity it provides loveLife to implement this holistic youth development approach."

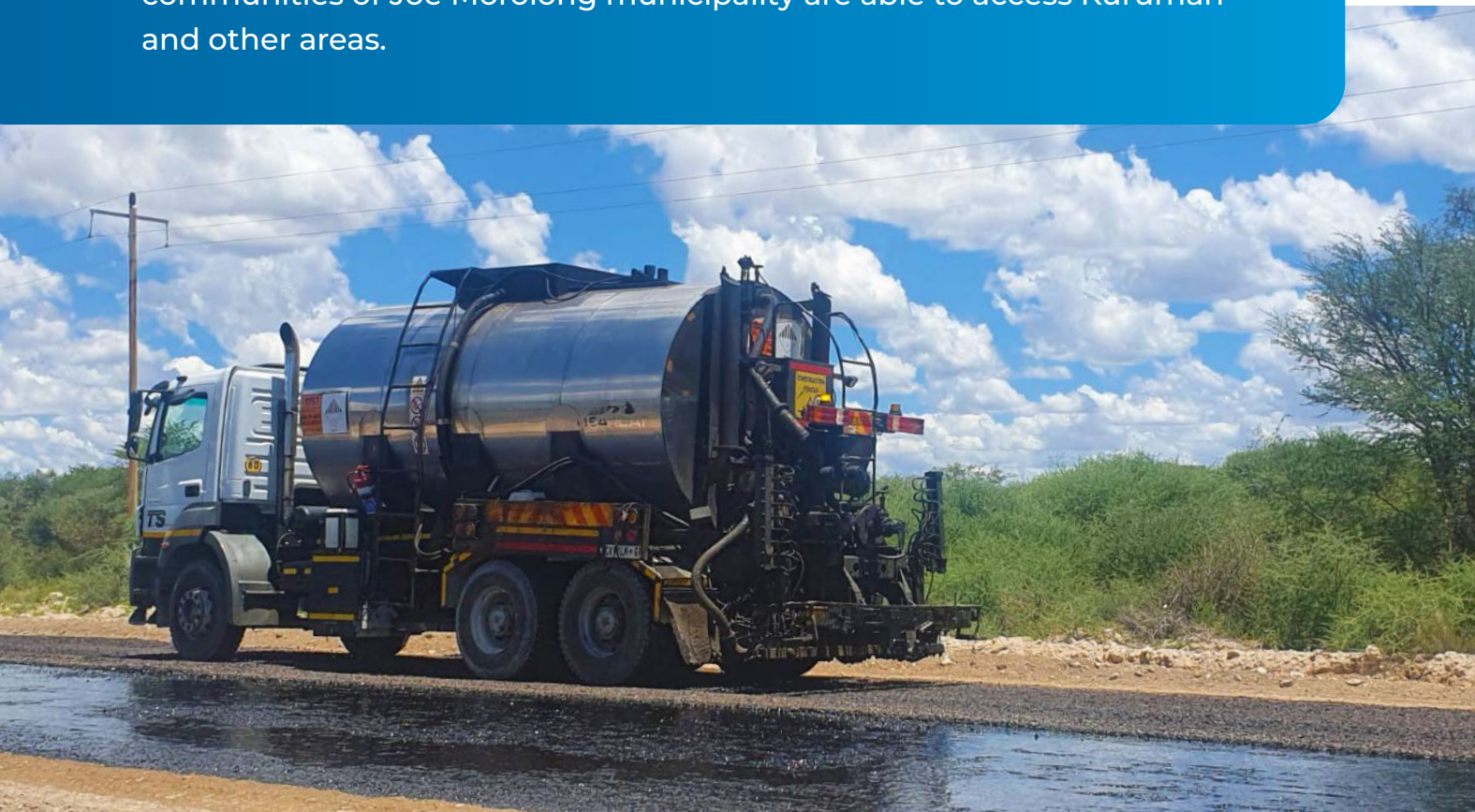
RAYMOND MOFOMME, NEW LOVELIFE
THABAZIMBI COORDINATOR



LAXEY-PADSTOW (MR947) ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PROJECT

enables increased livelihoods for the Joe Morolong community

Reliable infrastructure is key to socio-economic growth and sustainability. This includes access to a functional and safe road network. The upgrade of a 12-kilometre stretch of the Laxey-Padstow road has seen an investment by SIOC-CDT of R77,284,078 (excl VAT). This is to ensure that the communities of Joe Morolong municipality are able to access Kuruman and other areas.



Situated on the MR947 (Laxey and Padstow road), this road infrastructure upgrade project will help to facilitate an improved local economy due to the subsequent increase in travel. It will also enable learners to travel to schools on a road that is in much better condition and provide safer transport routes for all community members.

While its primary beneficiary is not in doubt, the benefits of this infrastructure development extend far beyond the residents of Joe Morolong municipality alone. As important is the increased ease of travel for other communities wishing to visit the area. This includes service providers, or other work-related commuters, whose travel has previously been hampered by the dire lack of infrastructure.



And most essentially, the many lives that will now be saved as a result of this upgrade.

Implementation of this project is assigned to the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works. As part of its oversight role, in August 2022, SIOC-CDT's Project Review Committee undertook a visit to various infrastructure projects currently being implemented in the JTG communities, including the MR947 road project. The report back was that work is progressing well.

Early November saw great strides taken towards the completion of this project, with completion expected during December 2022.

- Road surfacing (black top) has been completed for an approximate 5.8km stretch of road from Laxey in the Padstow direction.
- An 8km stretch of stabilised base layer has been completed.
- A 11.2km stretch of sub-base has been completed.
- All stormwater culverts have been installed.

“Upon completion, this road infrastructure will alleviate the struggle experienced by the community of Joe Morolong Local Municipality. Currently, the vastness of the area coupled by the distance community members must travel in order to reach the economic and social hub in Kuruman, is both dire and unfavourable. For example, at present, SMMEs who need to purchase merchandise must travel 92km from Laxey to Kuruman (return trip). For those travelling from Heuningvlei to Kuruman, it equates to a distance of no less than 194km. The road infrastructure upgrade project will allow these communities to play a far more active role in the economic development of their respective areas, ultimately leading to greater sustainability of livelihoods for individuals and households.” VUSANI MALIE – CEO, SIOC-CDT

SIOC-CDT INVESTS R60M+ TO PROVIDE HABITABLE AND ASBESTOS-FREE HOMES

to 89 elderly and vulnerable households

In collaboration with Gamagara local municipality, November saw the completion of SIOC-CDT's infill housing project within the Welgelee, Diepkloof and Dibeng areas. Comprising of 89 new homes, at a cost of R65,083,526, this project sought to provide habitable and asbestos-free housing to elderly and vulnerable households.



Beneficiaries were identified by the Gamagara Local Municipality – 70 recipients in Welgelee, 10 in Diepkloof and 10 in Dibeng, all of whom were living in

dilapidated houses or with asbestos roofing. Of the 90 houses originally planned, only 89 have been built due to one recipient not wanting their old home demolished.

In addition to the provision of habitable, healthy and asbestos-free-living environments, this project has also yielded great success across several other areas:

- It's provided insight into what it takes to develop a housing structure of this magnitude and quality.
- Job creation and local SMME development: no fewer than 21 local SMMEs benefitted from sub-construction work that, in turn, created 80 local job opportunities.
- Skills development: all SMMEs received safety protocol training. This, together with the size of the subcontracts they have received, has enabled them to upgrade their CIDB (Construction Industry Development Board) grading upon completion of the project.

Once completed, houses have been handed over to their new owners over the course of this project. October saw the handover of another two houses, with the last two remaining houses in Welgelee and Dibeng completed and handed over at the end of November.

All 89 homes consist of a 49.4 sqm floor area and come complete with a fully installed high pressure solar geyser, kitchenette and fenced-off yard. Each one has been certified by both the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) and local municipality.

"This project has provided great insight into capacity among local SMMEs in the Gamagara municipality, particularly in the construction sector. This has yielded a deeper understanding of exactly what capacity-building interventions are needed to continue assisting these entrepreneurs. Our goal is to ensure that whenever a need for infrastructure development arises, enterprises within the beneficiary community have the capability to benefit from these opportunities. We are also grateful to have been able to make a difference within these areas through the provision of housing and the eradication of asbestos exposure."

VUSANI MALIE – CEO, SIOC-CDT

❖ SIOC-CDT INVESTS OVER R3,6M TO TRANSFORM ACCESS TO EYE CARE SERVICES

across the Northern Cape

SIOC-CDT's Eye Care Service Enhancement Project at Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital (RMSH) is an investment of over R3,6 million to cover a once-off procurement of essential eye care equipment. In partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Health (NCDoH), this project will benefit no fewer than 10,000 eye care patients in the Northern Cape province per annum.



SIOC-CDT identifies comprehensive eye care as a key priority, with a specific focus on restoring vision for those who have become blind due to cataracts. This is in line with its commitment towards the development of beneficiary communities' health and welfare as part of the overarching Community Development Strategy.

RMSH Ophthalmology Centre is the only tertiary level eye care facility in the province. It serves as the main ophthalmology referral hub for eye patients from all nine hospitals. As a result, the backlog of patients requiring eye care services has increased over time, which has left some patients to become blind.

This backlog is compounded by the significant challenge of suitable and sufficient equipment for the treatment of eye care conditions – a situation SIOC-CDT aims to solve with this investment. Some of these eye care conditions include vernal keratoconjunctivitis (a chronic non-contagious allergic disorder with seasonal recurrence that usually appears during spring or warm weather seasons).



Very prevalent in the Northern Cape, especially among children and youths, it is the biggest risk factor in the development of keratoconus and potential blindness. As such, it is treated with the greatest of care. Patients with untreated keratoconus require corneal transplants to reverse blindness (donor corneas are not readily available in South Africa). Corneal crosslinking is the only effective measure to prevent keratoconus progression. *(Corneal collagen crosslinking (CXL) is a minimally invasive procedure used to prevent progression of corneal ectasia such as keratoconus and post-LASIK ectasia – Eye.Wiki).*

Further, while the recently completed Comprehensive Eye Care Project saw no fewer than 162 cataract surgeries to restore people's vision, a lack of resources at the local Postmasburg Hospital meant that the operations were conducted by the SA National Council for the Blind's outsourced doctors at Dr Harry Surtie Hospital in Upington. Due to this, the project could only cover patients above 18 years. Patients with congenital cataracts, or those below the age

of 18, were referred to Kimberley for further treatment with said referrals only serving to exacerbate an existing backlog.

Furthermore, to enable Re a Fola (a SIOC-CDT initiative that sees a mobile clinic rendering primary healthcare services to its beneficiary communities) to correctly refer any community members in need of specialised eye care services, a reliable eye care unit at RMSH is essential.

As a result, through this investment, SIOC-CDT is supporting the NCDoH, which has already employed all the required professionals needed, by fully equipping the unit with the necessary ophthalmological equipment. The project was led by the DoH's Eye Care Manager (Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital) and SIOC-CDT's Supply Chain Management team oversaw the procurement process.

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THE EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN PRIORITISED AND PROCURED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT INCLUDE:

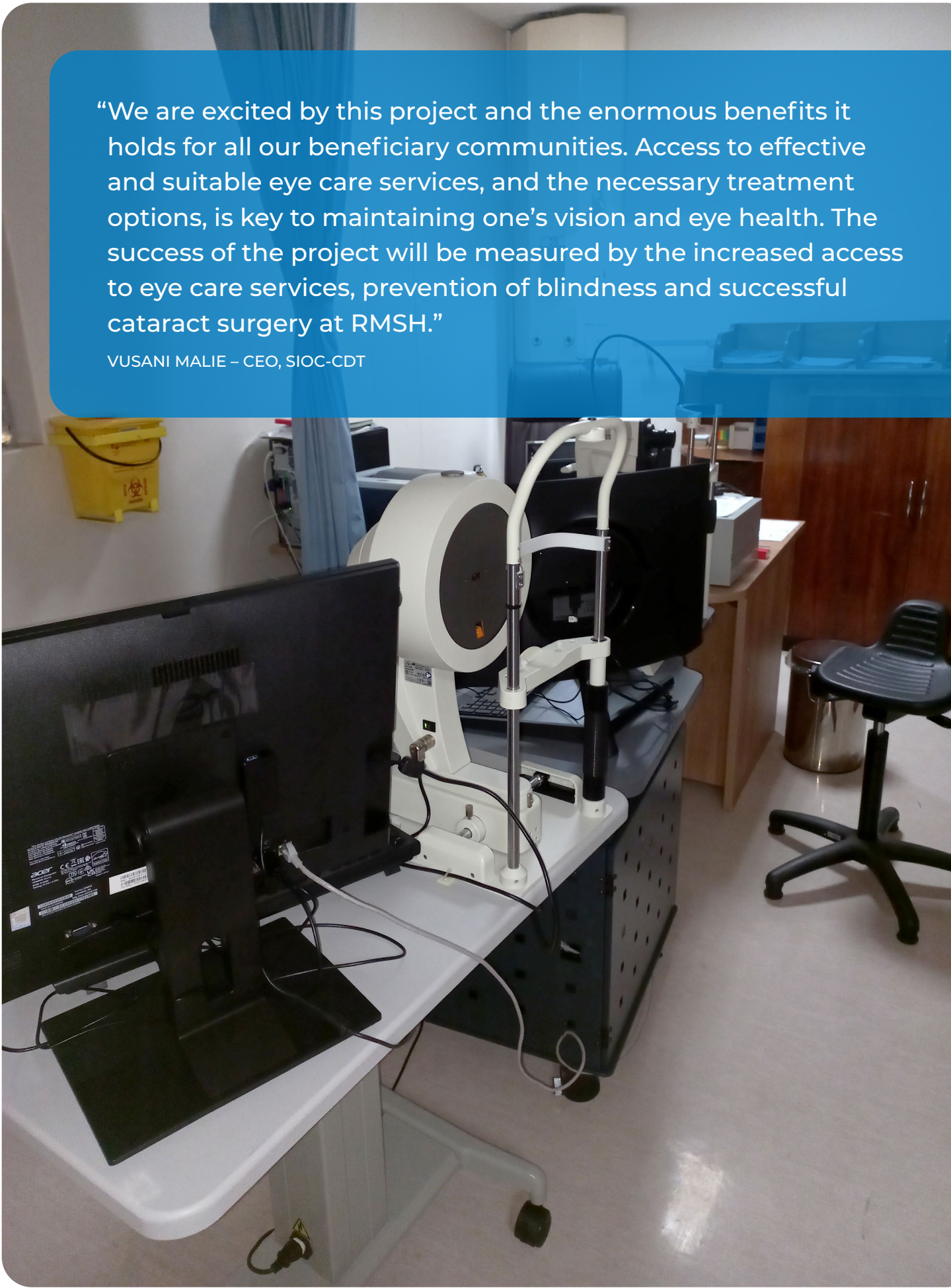
- **Corneal Crosslinking Device**
This piece of equipment provides essential treatment, thereby reducing the need for corneal transplants and thus decreasing costs. Some of the common conditions treated are diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Both these conditions, if left untreated, will result in a total loss of vision and blindness.
- **Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography (SD-OCT)**
The use of modern equipment, such as a SD-OCT, has greatly improved the treatment and monitoring of several conditions (e.g. diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular occlusions and glaucoma). This allows the ophthalmologist to make the diagnosis and implement treatment earlier, thereby often avoiding blindness complications. It is impossible to provide the standard of modern tertiary eye care to patients without access to an SD-OCT machine.
- **Pentacam**
This will enable children in the Northern Cape province to receive complete tertiary level care at the RMSH Eye Care unit. Pentacam has become an essential diagnostic tool and is considered as the gold standard in most ophthalmology practices. Pentacam is a test performed to diagnose a variety of corneal pathologies. These include keratoconus, corneal ectasia and anterior chamber assessments.

THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT ARE NUMEROUS. THEY INCLUDE:

- The expansion of services (congenital cataract surgery, corneal disease intervention, strabismus (squint) correction, ocular trauma intervention, optometry intervention, primary eye care intervention, onsite complications intervention, etc).
- Day-to-day eye care services that deal with broader ophthalmology.
- Backlog reduction in broad spectrum of ophthalmology (not only limited to cataracts).
- Improved ocular disease profiling and thus improved service growth.
- Eye care services sustenance.
- Improved disease outbreak response to diseases affecting eye services.
- As mentioned, the current SIOC-CDT partnership with the South African Council for the Blind (SANCB) excludes children under 18 years old. Enhancing the eye care unit will be very beneficial as the service will be extended to children below 18 years.

“We are excited by this project and the enormous benefits it holds for all our beneficiary communities. Access to effective and suitable eye care services, and the necessary treatment options, is key to maintaining one’s vision and eye health. The success of the project will be measured by the increased access to eye care services, prevention of blindness and successful cataract surgery at RMSH.”

VUSANI MALIE – CEO, SIOC-CDT



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