

SIOC-CDT Bursary Programme - Empowering the future through Education



SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), believe that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and unlocking opportunities for economic and social progress.

Since its inception in 2019, the SIOC-CDT bursary programme has so far supported 94 graduates, and currently supports a total just over 495 cohort of students who have enrolled in various public institutions of higher learning across the country. This number includes the 2025 cohort comprised of 232 students, the highest intake this bursary programme has ever seen since it started.

With education being a critical driver of change, the increasing number of students in need of financial support makes initiatives like this increasingly vital.

This bursary programme is key in the provision of financial support to deserving students from the Tsantsabane, Gamagara, Joe Morolong, Ga-Segonyana, and Thabazimbi areas, who are SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities.

While the bursary covers a wide range of disciplines, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields remain a priority due to their role in driving innovation and economic growth. However, students in other fields are not excluded, ensuring that diverse career paths are supported. The bursary exclusively funds studies at all public institutions of higher learning in South Africa, ensuring that beneficiaries receive a quality education.

This is one of the highly competitive bursary programmes

in the country, attracting students with the highest pass mark levels. Over 4000 applications from across the five beneficiary communities were received for 2025.

The bursary covers tuition, registration, accommodation, and study materials, including tailored support for students with disabilities i.e. assistive devices. Realising that a student life can inevitably attract other challenges that become a hindrance to their studies, an element of psycho-social support has been made part of the programme and this has seen many students experiencing a smooth life of study irrespective of challenges such as having to deal with life as a young adult, far away from home and family or even losing a family member etc.

This comprehensive approach ensures that students can focus on their studies without financial or personal barriers hindering their success.

Through this bursary, SIOC-CDT is investing in the next generation of professionals, entrepreneurs, and change-makers. By empowering youth with access to quality education, we are not just funding individuals, we are shaping the future of our communities and fostering their sustainable livelihood.. ***"No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated."*** - Dr Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela.

Where to find us?



www.sioc-cdt.co.za

Kathu

SIOC CDT Office
Park Block A,
Ground Floor, Cnr
Hendrick van Eck
& Ian Flemming,
B446

Thabazimbi

11 Jordan Street,
Moles Building (Old
Kumba Offices),
Thabazimbi, 0380
+27 (0)14 772 1739

Produced by: Stakeholder Relations & Communication

The Editor: Mosimanegape Macomo
email: stakeholder@sioc-cdt.co.za

Writers: Godfrey Khoele | Bonolo Semeri

Graphic Design & Photography: Mose Jorge



www.sioc-cdt.co.za

Defining ourselves through **our actions**, not our words.

The Postdene Asbestos Roof Replacement Project is gaining momentum



One of many refurbished houses in Postdene - by Mose Jorge

As the project moved into Phase 3 in April 2025, it is encouraging to realize how processes are becoming clearer to many of the interest stakeholders. This has been made possible by the regular engagements SIOC-CDT have undertaken to consult and share information with all the sectors of the community i.e. local business, the local municipality, beneficiary households and Postdene community members at large. From late March 2025, the project had already started moving into implementing its Phase three. At this stage, the project has already reached over 23% of implementation.

This project is aimed at eradicating Asbestos material of approximately more than 22 153

m², largely made up of asbestos roof sheeting in the Postdene area and replace them with safer roofing material. As the project progresses, Asbestos have been carefully removed, disposed off from 71 houses, new rafters and IBR roofing completed. Over and above the careful removal and disposal of this hazardous material in line with the Asbestos Abatement Regulations, 2020, the scope also covers i.e. brickwork, beam filling and plasterwork on every area of house affected by the removal work, paintwork, construction of ceilings, rewiring of the house for compliance and issuing of Certificate of Compliance after completion of all electrical work. The houses are also installed with high pressure solar geysers.

So far this project has created 33 construction related empowerment opportunities for local businesses, 8 of these businesses are women owned and 12 are youth owned, with one transport related business opportunity created and service provided by a member of the local taxi association. There's further 33 job opportunities created for skilled labour and 143 opportunities for unskilled labourers. Every household is provided an opportunity for 1 unemployed family member to form part of their own house labour force on the project. The project main contractor, KPA Civils has further created additional 13 job opportunities for the locals, to complement their staff.

Dealing with the removal of asbestos is one undertaking that triggers health sensitivities. To deal with any uncertainties that may develop among the affected communities, SIOC-CDT has ensured part of the stakeholder engagements covers educating the communities, about the processes involved in the removal and disposal, and all the necessary safety measures observed by the Department of Labour (DoL) Certified Contractor who is doing the work on the project. Over and above, the sessions brought on board the DoL Accredited Inspection Authority Specialists and the department's own official to impart more knowledge and information on the safety of the actual project site and the surrounding.

"Surely it must be comforting for the communities to learn from these sessions, of the availability of spotters, a safety officer and an Accredited Inspections Authority representative on site who are there to always be at hand to monitor and guide on any safety issues on the spot" - Anita Loots, CEO of SIOC-CDT.

"As we have indicated in our past communique' is the understanding and acknowledgement from SIOC-CDT side that, this is a logistically challenging project that takes into account the day-to-day needs of the vulnerable in the community, thus ensuring that we work hand-in-glove with everyone to ensure that everything is done with all the required compliance the project deserves. We are so far glad that the community holds the same understanding and are always actively participating in these engagements to ensure they get the correct information from certified parties and authorities" - further says Anita.

Comprehensive eye-care programme reaches its target

The Comprehensive Eye-Care Programme was launched in 2021 by SIOC-CDT as one of the important health restorative initiatives under the Health and Wellness focus area. This programme aimed at addressing the lack of awareness by communities on the visual impairment resulting from cataracts as well making resources available for those who required operation. This initiative was also important in addressing the cataract operation backlog experienced in our public health system. Lack of vision due to different factors and most importantly as a result of cataracts, has a great impact on the individual's quality of life. Cataract is easily described as the clouding of the eye causing visual impairment and at the worst resulting to a total blindness if not detected early enough.

This has taken a lot of effort and that includes availability of financial resources, the up-to standard healthcare resources in the form of highly specialized skilled health professionals (Ophthalmologist and support staff), well equipped theatre systems and solidified collaborations by institutions with shared vision. Government could not do it alone, hence SIOC-CDT realising the need for intervention. This programme had become a good collaborative effort between SIOC-CDT, Department of Health for the Northern Cape and Limpopo, together with the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB),

the institution that has been instrumental in bringing highly reputable Ophthalmologists in the country to perform the operations.

Through this programme, over 7917 patients were screened to check if they have developed cataracts and those detected with cataracts were then referred for operation. SIOC-CDT has made over 3023 operation possible between 2021 until the close of this campaign in February 2025. All these beneficiaries are from across the five beneficiary communities of John Taolo Gaetsewe (JTG), Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi, of this number, a total of 163 patients received a Bilateral operation - This is a cataract operation on both eyes. Besides new cases that continues to build-up steadily, the backlog in cataracts operations at public health facilities made it critical for the Trust to look into the importance of this intervention.

The programme was diligently run and the Trust has achieved the targeted numbers it aimed to assist through this programme and even went over by additional 105 by the time it closed, marking a total of 3128 patients receiving cataract operations.

"Cataracts operation is a greatly life changing as it helps those partially visually impaired to regain their eyesight. It is a very expensive operation and the most needy in

our communities can hardly find a way around dealing with this challenge. Getting blind due to cataracts has a major negative impact on one's quality of life as it robs off the ability to do most things they used to do on their own and start being dependent on the help of others. As Thabazimbi Hospital, we are thankful for this initiative as it has brought a lot of relief to our already overstretched resource requirements and we couldn't have reached the milestone we have managed with cataracts operations had it not been for this collaborative effort. We believe this help will enable these beneficiaries a sustainable and self-sufficient livelihood" - Says

Dr Raisibe Kupa, HOI of Thabazimbi Hospital.



Access for Success (A4S) - A stepping stone to Higher Education



Access for Success 2025 cohort

The year 2025 marks the fourth year of the Access for Success (A4S) programme, an initiative by SIOC-CDT aimed at providing learners from beneficiary communities with a second chance to improve their marks to secure university acceptance. This year-long university preparation programme supports Grade 12 learners in the Science, Technology, Economics, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, giving them an opportunity to improve their Mathematics and Physical Sciences marks. Beyond academics, A4S focuses on developing well-rounded individuals who are equipped to transition into university life with confidence by offering career guidance, personal development, and English proficiency lessons, ensuring that learners are prepared not just for academic success but also for the challenges of higher education.

Since its inception in 2022, A4S has consistently delivered outstanding results. In its first year, the programme achieved an 81.6% pass rate from a cohort of 60 students. In 2023, the pass rate rose to an impressive 98%. Even more remarkable is the 100% university acceptance rate achieved in 2023 and 2024, highlighting the programme's effectiveness in preparing students for higher education.

This year, SIOC-CDT is supporting another cohort of 60 students who began their journey in February 2025 at Duin in die Weg Campus in Gariep, Upington, Northern Cape. The programme's impact continues to grow, attracting new partners who share the vision of fostering academic excellence. At the welcoming event, SIOC-CDT Education Programme Coordinator, Mr. Lesibana Mashiane, expressed his pride in the achievements of the previous learner cohorts, not only in their academic performance but also in their personal development. He encouraged the incoming cohort to follow in the footsteps of the past participants who have successfully transitioned into university.

"As SIOC-CDT continues to invest in the education of the beneficiary communities, we extend our best wishes to this year's learners embarking on this transformative journey", further says Lesibana.

SIOC-CDT funded ECD practitioners graduate



ECD Practitioners graduates, 2025

In Early Childhood Development (ECD), the role of the teacher is of great importance. Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a crucial phase that lays the foundation for a child's future well-being and capacities. It is at this level in life where a determination happens for a child's future to flourish and be a success. For this good moulding of child to happen, it can only be through quality education and learning delivered by highly skilled ECD teachers. Through the Community Development Strategic focus area of Education, Training and Skills Development, SIOC-CDT is investing significantly in the up-skilling of Early Childhood Development teachers from its beneficiary areas.



ECD Practitioners graduates, 2025

In January 2025, SIOC-CDT's collaboration with Custoda Trust has celebrated the outstanding achievement of the 86 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioner graduates, and 48 of these are a cohort proudly funded by SIOC-CDT, and these practitioners come from the beneficiary areas of Joe Morolong, Ga-Segonyana and Gamagara. These dedicated practitioners started their journey in 2023 and now have been conferred with the NQF Level 5 Further Education and Training Certification in ECD from Custoda Trust.

SIOC-CDT was represented by Mr. Moloko Malahlela, Programme Manager: Education, Training and Skills Development together with his team. Dr. Palesa Manwedi-Thuli from the Northern Cape Provincial Department of Education also graced this prest-

tigious event representing the department. This programme has shown significant growth and its contribution in the development of much required skills in the ECD sector. There has been a remarkable interest from other development partners in and around our beneficiary areas and other parts of the Northern Cape who are bringing in support to scale-up this programme by enrolling more ECD practitioners to undergo the training and ultimately graduate like the current cohort. ECD Practitioners play a crucial role in the education system of the Northern Cape and our country entirely. The graduates are not just educators; they are the backbone of our communities, they play a big part of grooming and shaping the future of our young children to improve their chances of success in life as future leaders. .

"Early childhood development is crucial for a child's long-term growth, and these practitioners will continue to play a key role in ensuring that every child receives a solid foundation for learning and development. Their impact will resonate throughout our communities and beyond. Currently we have just above 180 practitioners undergoing the ECD programme across our five beneficiary areas, with the Northern Cape cohort of 100 enrolled with Custoda Trust and Limpopo/Thabazimbi cohort of 80 enrolled with the Waterberg TVET College" - says Anita Loots, CEO of SIOC-CDT

Kanako Social Responsibility supports local schools



School uniform hand over Sishen Intermediate Mine School.

The challenging socio-economic status in our communities create impediments for vulnerable community members, particularly school going children and their families. The Kanako Social Responsibility (KSRR) Programme has been set-up to respond to the immediate needs for these children to be able to attend school and be in a right frame of mind for learning.

Many children coming from most disadvantaged families often lacks essentials that would motivate them to look forward to attending school every day. These essentials include Sanitary Towels for girl children, Dignity Packs with basic personal care essentials for boys and girls, as well as School Uniform and stationery.

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Since the month February, SIOC-CDT has travelled across the five beneficiary areas of Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong, Thabazimbi and Tsantsabane municipality areas, on visits to identified schools in order to provide deserving girl children with Sanitary Towels, Dignity Packs and School Uniform. This year the Sanitary Towels programme will benefit over 3653 girls from 40 schools with a supply of sanitary towels for the entire 12 months.



Tongwane Middle school dignity packs sanitary towels handover, 2025

Through the Dignity Packs project, 1110 children from 37 schools have each been supplied with packs of personal care essentials containing toothpastes, toothbrushes,

bar soaps, deodorants, body lotions, face cloths, shoe polish and shoe brushes.



Learamela Special School dignity packs handover, 2025

These packs are a supply for the entire year to each recipient, delivered two times per year. The School Uniform project has also expanded to cover 1349 identified children from 48 schools across SIOC-CDT beneficiary areas. This project is run in close collaboration with the Department of Education (Northern Cape and Limpopo), local authorities and various school communities.

Holistic notable impact of the KSRP - Improved school attendance and participation among learners benefiting from each project under the KSRP (i.e. lessened absenteeism from girls when they

are on menstruation). Enhanced self-esteem and hygiene awareness contributing to a healthier learning environment and an equal support for both boy and girl children, promoting gender equality and breaking stereotypes about hygiene needs.

The development journey of Kanako Social Responsibility started back in 2020, and has since become one of the Trust's flagship initiatives that has seen many children from SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities finding a helping hand making schooling a pleasant experience despite their indigent family status. The programme acknowledges that every child in South Africa has a right to education and no circumstance should impede them from attending school and accessing education, which is the most important instrument to improve one's status of living.

Ziggy's Infinity (Pty) Ltd, another beneficiary of Project Kgodiso

Ziggy's Infinity started as a car wash after Mr. Keabaka Seupe's father passed away and as a black young male from a disadvantaged background who faced an uncertain future. Confronted by the realities of having to take up a responsibility of stepping up at a tender age, help his unemployed mother to get the family survive, coupled with his entrepreneurial aspirations at a tender age, he found himself in this spot and started a car wash business.



Mr Seupe receives a new truck, 2025

The business expanded into brick production and water supply despite COVID-19 challenges. Based in Maruping village, under the Ga-Segonyana local municipality, Mr. Seupe aims to grow the business and create more jobs in his immediate community and at a long term, become a key contributor to the small business sector. Ziggy's Infinity is one of the local small

businesses who have been on-boarded to the Project Kgodiso, SIOC-CDT's first of its kind, Business Development Support programme that was initiated in 2022 with a purpose to empower up to 50 potentially scalable businesses across all five of the beneficiary communities, Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong, Thabazimbi and Tsantsabane. Being among the qualifying business after being subjected to all the due processes, this enterprise has received assistance with an 8ton delivery truck to ensure efficiency in transportation of finished products to customers, additional machinery to meet the increasing demand and also training in order to focus on increasing the client base and

strengthening the supply chain to maximize revenue and operational efficiency.

On the delivery day of the new assets, this is what the Ziggy's Infinity Director, Mr. Seupe had to say, - "I am one of those who applied for SIOC-CDT Project Kgodiso Business Development Support, it took a bit longer than I expected but I remained patient and optimistic. Today it is a happy moment as my vision to expand my business with these machinery bought for me, and the security fencing built around my precinct. Currently I have twelve (12) employees and this will soon increase to fight unemployment in my community. I urge the youth in SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities to be active and look for opportunities and whenever there's a call from this Trust to come forward for participation in any programme, step-ahead and seize the opportunity"



APPLY FOR COMMUNITY FUNDING TODAY!

Beneficiary Communities Discretionary Fund

SIOC-CDT is allocating Funds for small but impactful community initiatives that fall outside the main focus areas of Education, Health, and Enterprise Development.

"Let's make a difference, together."

KEY POINTS:

- **Equal Fund Distribution** (For each community: Joe Morolong, Ga-Segonyana, Gamagara, Tsantsabane, and Thabazimbi.)
- **Community Oversight** (Community Representative Trustees will oversee the allocation to ensure fair distribution.)
- **No Infrastructure Projects** (The fund will not support infrastructure-related initiatives.)
- **You can only receive the grant once per annum**

FUNDING CATEGORIES:

- **Community Pride & Resilience:** Initiatives like cleaning campaigns, food gardens, and support for vulnerable groups.
- **Community Events & Awareness:** Activities aligned with national/global initiatives (e.g. poverty eradication, environmental campaigns).
- **Sports, Arts & Healthy Recreation:** Community projects promoting sports, arts, culture, and recreation.

GUIDELINES:

- **Simple Application Process:** Easy application form with clear criteria.
- **Transparency:** Communications campaign to publicize the fund.
- **Eligibility:** Maximum of R50,000 per initiative, per year.
- **Approval Time:** Decisions within one month after application submission.
- **Limitations:** No multiple applications per initiative in one year.

Apply by collecting and submitting the completed application form to:

Gamagara:
Mr Nico Andreas (Cell: 078 335 5681, email: niconick040@gmail.com)

Ga-Segonyana:
Mr Boltumelo Ernest Mogohu (Cell: 071 127 7264, email: bmogohu@gmail.com)

Joe Morolong:
Mr Tebogo Kotsedi (Cell: 081 761 8260, email: tebogokotsedi35@gmail.com)

Tsantsabane:
Mr Sobuza Botha (Cell: 071 080 8525, email: sobuzabotha@gmail.com)

Thabazimbi:
To be submitted at the hub.

Let's build a stronger, more resilient community together!

TADS Relaunches the Olifantshoek Service Centre



Tsantsabane Alcohol and Drug Service, 2025

The Tsantsabane Alcohol and Drug Service held an event on the 27th of March 2025. This marked an official launching of the organizations' Olifantshoek Service Centre, located in 21 Van Riebeeck Street (Old Post Office Building).

The event was graced by stakeholders from various sectors including i.e. Soul City Institute, ANOVA, Substance Use Disorder Intervention (SUDI) Kuruman, Family and Marriage Society of South Africa (FAMSA), Faith Based Organizations i.e. SAPS, Social Development, Health and Education departments as well as various Youth Organizations from the Gamagara local municipality area. SIOC Community Development Trust's Gamagara Community Representative

Trustee, Mr Nico Andreas also graced the occasion. Our communities suffers the scourge of drug and alcohol use disorder, and the services brought to the community of Olifantshoek through institutions such as TADS is of great importance. TADS Centre Manager, Ms Janine van den Heever presented at indepth the services TADS is offering to the community and that includes - Prevention & Treatment of Substance abuse, Drug Testing, Addiction Assessment, Early Intervention Programs, Prevention and Treatment Programs.

"We are thankful to SIOC-CDT and Anglo American Kumba Mine for their support as they are currently our main sponsors. Through their support we are doing a remarkable work for our communities as are currently providing our services to both Tsantsabane and Gamagara areas" says Janine.



Tsantsabane Alcohol and Drug Service, 2025