



SAEP Newsletter

June 2021

In the second quarter of 2021, our programmes were under way, compliant with COVID-19 protocols and we planned to share stories of progress in this newsletter. Instead, the rise in COVID-19 infections has taken us back to Level 4 lockdown, all our programmes have been suspended and we share with you the impact of lockdown on our work and the community in which we work.



Stay engaged with us



Support us



Contribute to our work

Back to Lockdown

In one sense, the situation feels familiar, a repetition of the State of Disaster in 2020, when we adapted to respond to new needs and to continue serving our beneficiaries. On the other hand, there are new challenges: our beneficiary communities have depleted resources and reserves, informal livelihoods and jobs in the service industry have

been lost in the last 15 months and the community in Philippi needs immediate support to sustain them. The regulations currently in place were set to last from 28 June until they are reviewed on 11 July, but the continuing surge in infection may see them extended and we are planning for that.

**Our
programmes
have
changed
plans:**

Siyakhathala Primary Programme closed the Learning Gym immediately; in effect the holiday will be 4 weeks instead of 2. An outing to Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens planned for late July is on hold and will be reviewed closer to the time.

Hope Scholars Programme planned outings and a holiday programme which is now on hold. We will be guided by educators and the staff at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens about the way forward.

Post-secondary programme – Bridging Year and Tertiary Support Programme – has canceled planned workshops and learning events – careers day, CV writing workshop and regular classes. An outing is on hold. Staff are in contact with students through online groups and will advise how we resume classes when we know more. Students need data and airtime to stay in touch and to access learning resources.

Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) will remain open though there are concerns that attendance may be low and fee payments will drop, threatening the viability of ECD centres. This is particularly problematic in unregistered, unsubsidized centres, undermining feeding in the centres and payment to the teachers. Our ECD programme planned to distribute PPE to centres this week, and will find ways to do so with limited contact. ECD centres remain a vital source of food for vulnerable children and we appeal for food to continue feeding children through them.

Donate to Thuso Relief Fund

We see some of the same needs in our communities as last year and appeal for donations to keep the supply of food to ECDs and data to students.

Last year we raised enough to reach more than 1,000 families and make a difference to their lives. Help us again.

**Donate now to feed the
children in the ECD centres**



Use Thuso, your name and surname as the reference and send proof of payment, your name and address to donate@saep.org if you require a receipt.

SAEP 3-year strategic plan

Our strategic plan for 2021 to 2023 is ready to share with stakeholders:

We plan to return to our roots in Philippi reaching more people and extending our programmes. We see SAEP as a garden with 5 distinctive plants (programmes), each representing a stage in education. We want to nurture Philippi's youth (as we would a garden) through education, psychosocial support & stimulating experiences in South Africa's natural landscape. We see a world in which these strong foundations set them up for personal and professional success, breaking the cycle of poverty. Our strategy for the next three years is to focus on our strengths, offering services to a larger beneficiary base within Philippi and the surrounding areas.

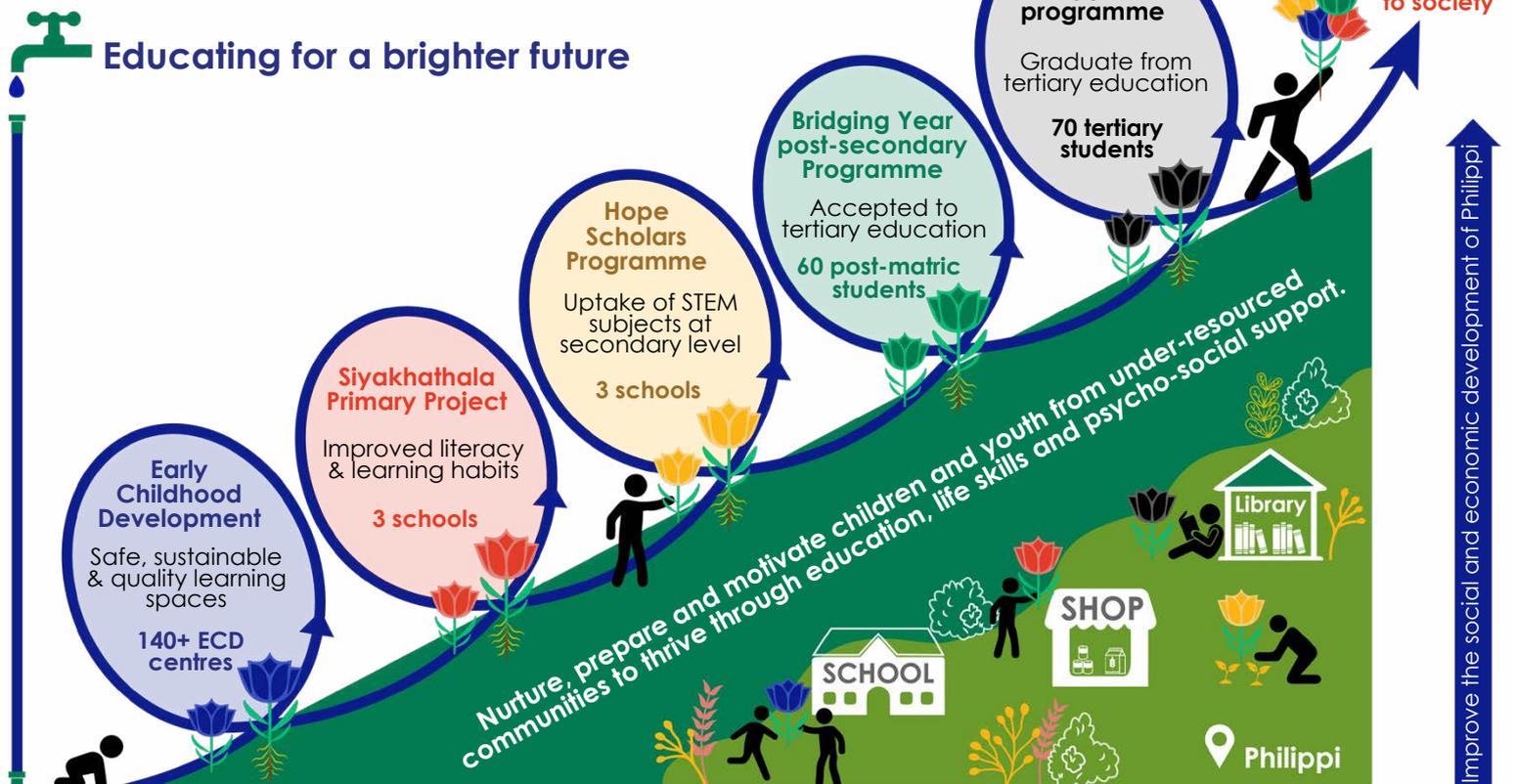
Our approach includes **educational support, psychosocial support, and environmental greening activities and experiences.** We aim to impart valuable life and learning skills that prepare beneficiaries at the transition to the next phase of their education.



All our programmes collectively work towards these three strategic goals, each in their own way. We present this exciting new strategy and will tell you about the way it develops in practice through newsletters, our website and social media.

SAEP Programme overview

(Click on graphic to enlarge)



We have a growth plan for each of the programmes which we will share as it develops.

Community Safety

The community of Philippi has high rates of unemployment and poverty and very high rates of crime and violence. In the past few years, the police stations serving the community – Philippi East, Nyanga and others – have regularly featured among the top 30 precincts in the country for serious violent crimes like murder, robbery, aggravated assault in the country, and hijacking of vehicles.



This is a constant feature of the lives of the children and young people in our programmes and **we offer psycho-social support in groups and through referral to specialist counsellors where necessary.** The very motive

of our programmes is to provide alternatives for them. Our staff are also affected and there have been many instances of theft and robbery of their personal possessions and threat to their safety.

One of our vehicles was hijacked in May and recovered early in June, fortunately with very little damage; it is being repaired and will be available for work again soon. This is a good result but the impact on the staff members who were threatened with violence and who have returned to work in the same environment in which they were unsafe is substantial.



Our staff remains committed to providing our services to the community of Philippi, to mitigate social ills.

Bridging Year Programme

Bridging Year students enjoyed a hike to Elephant's Eye Cave at Silvermine reserve. We hosted the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) staff who presented a workshop about democracy, elections and the legislative and regulatory framework. The presentation is aimed at young people, to promote registration and participation in democratic process. We are discussing extending the partnership with IEC.



Annual General meeting

SAEP held our AGM on 15 May 2021. We reflected on the work our organisation did in 2020, and how we managed to support our beneficiaries throughout the lockdown.

Click here
to watch
the
AGM



Hope Scholars Programme (HSP)

A workshop lasting 2 days on bullying, depression and mental health was delivered to 120 learners in Grade 8 at Sophumelela Senior Secondary School during the school holidays in April, facilitated by Okuhle Xakuvane, staff social worker, and Andile Nqoko, the HSP programme coordinator. Attendance showed the importance to learners of the issue and the support of the school principal shows how they value our contribution to the school.



The colourful posters that were produced at the workshop were laminated and displayed throughout the school as a reminder and as part of a continuing process to raise awareness of bullying and mental health. A similar workshop was held at Zisukhanye Secondary School.

Thuso Relief fund

continued to provide food for children at Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Philippi.

In May and June 2021, food was distributed to 99 centres reaching

2,926 children between them.



Siyakhathala Primary Programme



After a late start to the year, Grade 5 learners settled in happily to the sessions of team reading, exploring and exercising their powerful 'learning muscles' – namely curiosity, perseverance, and collaboration – with the cheerful support of their coaches.

We started on 10 May with 60 Grade 5 learners attending on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Schools are operating within COVID-19 protocols so that the learners attend on alternate weeks

to avoid overcrowding in the classrooms. So **in our programme we have two different groups attending in alternate weeks.** Just before we closed for the current lockdown, we recruited and started teaching 63 Grade 4 learners.



There is no space for us to cook at the school, and our cooking equipment was stolen, so we are unable to offer cooked meals at present and provide fruit snacks instead. We find that the learners are always hungry. They have lunch at school at 11.00 but only come to us at 15.00 when they are already hungry and find it difficult to concentrate.

We are still applying the **check-in system** introduced by Anne Witt in 2020, which helps us identify learners who need social support.



Donation of shoes

Become an Angel

Sustain our work in Philippi



Thank you to all the individual donors who contribute significantly to our work through donations in cash and in kind and through using their networks to expand our donor base. Their support has sustained our work through 25 years and rising.

Be an angel and sign up for regular donations

For those who aren't yet angels, please click here to join this special group and make regular payments to sustain our work.



Appeal - Support our work in 2021

Your gift of R500 (\$34) would contribute to:

- ✓ Start-up kit for 1 ECD Centre, including sanitizing and protective materials, and food for nutritious meals for the children;
- ✓ Data and stationery for 1 post-secondary student, or contribute to the cost of a laptop;
- ✓ An outing for one learner in secondary school – Hope Scholars Programme.

DONATE NOW

send us notice of the payment and use your name and Sustain as the reference.



Thank you for making a difference.

Amazon smile

If you shop at Amazon, choose us as your charity



MySchool My Village My Planet

Local shoppers can support us every time they swipe their MySchool My Village My Planet cards – choose us as your charity.



Contact Us

www.saep.org 

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Our regular individual donors are the Angels who sustain us: **CLICK HERE** to become an angel and sign up for regular donations

Thank You!

The South African Education Project (SAEP) is a non-profit organisation (NPO 028 310), based in Cape Town, South Africa. Since 1994, we have provided education, life skills, and psycho-social support programmes for children youth and education providers.