



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020-2021**

2020 was the most difficult year in Masinyusane's 12-year lifetime. We lack adequate words to describe the violence it inflicted upon our families and communities. The lives lost. The hunger felt. The stress of unprecedented job losses.

Yet we are deeply proud of our team for stepping up during such a difficult time. We led one of the biggest feeding projects in the city, continued to pay all of our staff (including all 60 youth jobs), supported our Top Learners and managed to run our libraries and literacy centres.

This pandemic presented unprecedented challenges and devastated our communities in many ways. While we have no intention of downplaying this devastation, in this report, we will try to focus on the projects and their accomplishments.

The Mission & Goals

We will hit all of our major children & youth project goals, including the launch of a new school, the creation of over 60 community jobs, the launch of more ECD projects, and the expansion of the project at our partner schools.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We created 60 desperately needed community jobs
- All literacy centres and libraries operated throughout the pandemic while schools were open.
- Our High School Team submitted 1348 applications for university, NSFAS and bursaries.
- Our university students achieved a 93% pass-rate.
- Our Covid-19 Emergency Response project fed over 75,000 people in families from 80 schools.

At the same time, our high school and university team projects adjusted to the 'new reality' and provided incredible support to our students most in need.

We managed to run our entire high school project and providing critical support to 299 of the top Grade 12's in our city during the most difficult academic year of their lives.

Our university students were all forced to transition to online learning. However, we decided to keep our Masi Houses of Excellence open to ensure our most impoverished students still had a safe, quiet place from which to study. We are very proud to share that they all passed.

Covid-19 Response

In April, we repurposed our entire team to assist with our emergency covid assistance project. Our staff helped feed over 75,000 people across 80 schools. It was the biggest feeding programme in the city.

At the same time, we created, launched and rolled out a children's television show (with two partner NGOs) that aired every day. This allowed us to engage our youth, reach our children while schools were closed, and flex our adaptive muscles as an organisation.

All of this was accomplished within a month

of the pandemic striking and it made an enormous difference in the lives of our children and families.

With schools reopening, we are winding down the feeding project and repurposing everyone back to the children's education initiatives.

The Path Forward

Despite the pandemic, Masinyusane built two beautiful, huge literacy centres and libraries at primary schools. We also built two literacy centres at preschools and are in the process of building a third.

These projects brought hope to our communities as they served as a reminder that this will one day be over, the future still holds bright things and that there's something to look forward to.

Everyday South Africans aren't expected to receive the vaccine until mid-2022, so we will be living with Covid-19 for a while.

But educating our children cannot wait and we intend on running at full capacity in the new year.

With your support, we will continue to create jobs, empower schools and educate children.

Thank you for being so generous and supportive during this incredibly difficult year. Together, we made a huge difference.

Jim & Fiks

Co-Founders

COVID-19 RESPONSE

“These families could not hold back their tears of joy due to excitement and gratefulness when they received them. They believed that those food parcels will make a huge difference at their homes. This gesture was really highly appreciated.”

~ Principal N. B. Nolakwe (Zanoxolo Primary School)



Many of our children relied on getting two of their meals at school every day. With schools closing, we knew our most impoverished children would start to go hungry. With the help of many generous donors, we launched Project Unity, our emergency food relief programme.

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Covid-19 TV Show

With schools closed, we knew we had to find creative ways of reaching our children. As part of Project Unity, we teamed up with Masifunde & United Through Sport **to create a television show for children**. It's aired twice a day, every day, including during prime time, on Bay TV across all households in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

Launched during Level 5 lock down, we had the team contributing towards something positive immediately. We felt it important to teach, especially the youth, that you need to be innovative, creative and perseverant during difficult times. Even if it meant launching a TV show from our individual homes with suboptimal equipment and zero experience :)

We put our youth to work reading stories, using puppets, creating skits, giving tips to parents about how to read to their children, sharing fun activities at home and more. It's just one more way we have tried to step up during the Covid-19 lock down and be there for our children and communities. You can tune into Bay TV any week night at 17:30 to catch an episode or check out our YouTube channel.



CHILDREN & YOUTH



A Generation of Readers

Masinyusane's Literacy Coaches provide customised, individual literacy sessions to children for the first 5-7 years of their schooling life. This provides them with the foundation they need to read, write and comprehend. Every child is unique and learns differently. Even worse, many of our children are packed into classrooms with 40 to 50 children. Our Literacy Coaches provide customised, one-hour literacy sessions designed to work with the child at their level. This is the most effective, full-proof way of ensuring every child learns and no one is left behind. It is unclear how many sessions our team will be able to hold in 2020 due to the pandemic, but we have already restarted!

563

Children Are
Receiving
Literacy Sessions



56

Literacy Coaches
Work Across the
Schools



8722

Sessions of Literacy Coaching
Have Taken Place in 2020



Children's Progress

The children made pretty good progress in 2020 despite the pandemic. Unfortunately, covid resulted in closed schools for 4 months and fifty percent capacity from Aug to Nov. We assess each child every 6 months on four different metrics. If a child reaches 'reading level' for their grade, we graduate them out of the programme and focus our energies on children still struggling. The sessions with the 2-6 year old children focus on phonics and sounds, while the sessions with the 7-10 year old children are focused on reading and writing. Below we highlight some of the most important statistics.



57%

Improvement in Phonics vs the Control Group for our Grade 1 Children



53%

Improvement in Phonics vs the Control Group for our Grade R Children



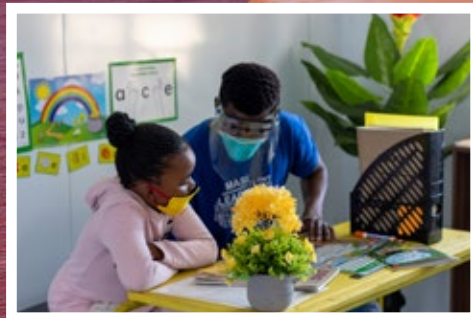
61%

Of 5-6 Year Olds Have Progressed by One Level



FEATURE PROJECT

Our brand new Grade 2 & 3 literacy centre at Isaac Booi P.S.



Youth Employment

In 2020, we created jobs for 66 youth in our Children's Education programme. 56 of these youth serve as literacy coaches.

As noted above, the youth have played a critical role in our Covid-19 response, helping us roll out the food parcel project and launch a children's television show.

In August, they helped schools reopen by taking entire classrooms when teachers were absent. We also restarted all of our literacy sessions, providing children with the critical one-on-one assistance that so many need.

These jobs give the youth with the opportunity to earn an income, gain work experience, receive training, and take part in uplifting their own community's children.

During a pandemic, the jobs enabled the youth to serve as heroes in the community. Stepping up and making a difference while so many (such as older teachers) are trapped at home.

We were very proud to see them rise to this challenge.



TOP LEARNERS



HIGH SCHOOL INTERVENTION

We are investing in ensuring EVERY qualifying learner from the 37 township high schools receives ACCESS to university.

Masinyusane's High School team spent the year assisting learners in all of 37 township high schools. They were meeting the matrics, collecting their information and explaining the steps we will take together to get as many of them as possible admission and funding for university in 2021.

We have submitted 1035 applications to a variety of public institutions for these students. This includes filling in the entire form online, uploading their documents, triple checking everything and paying fees. It's a monumental task, especially given the challenges covid caused, including school closures and uncertainty among matrics.

But it will absolutely **change the lives** of many of the kids. Many will gain university acceptance whereas without us they would not have (application rates were 14% prior to Masi intervention, 80%+ after). Others will have the opportunity to travel/live/study outside of Port Elizabeth (most only apply locally). Others will have the option to choose from variety of potential fields of study.

We are also happy to report that we successfully submitted all NSFAS forms received, ensuring that each of these students receives funding next year.

In addition to managing and submitting applications at multiple universities, bursaries and NSFAS, our team is distributing study guides, food parcels and hosting motivational talks with learners. We are incredibly proud of the team's efforts during an extremely difficult year.

Number of High Schools	37
Number of Top Learners Identified	299
Number of Study Packs Distributed	289
Number of University Applications Submitted	1035
Percent of Financial Aid Applications Submitted	94%
Number of Bursary Applications Submitted	77



HELPING HIGH SCHOOLERS GET TO UNIVERSITY

You have drastically increased our ability to enroll students at other universities, giving learners from our townships the opportunity to travel, live in another city and access other universities.

Masinyusane's high school team makes an enormous effort to unlock access to other universities for our learners. We apply (and pay fees for) up to five universities for each learner. This equates to thousands of applications each year.

However, even after being accepted, the road to enrolling at a university outside of Port Elizabeth can be difficult.

Some institutions require you to be present

before assigning housing. Therefore, you must show up in other city and accommodate yourself for a few days until the housing lists are sorted out

Needless to say, this is an impossible expense for our students. This year, we once again bought bus tickets, paid for a week in a hostel, and provided travel stipends to all of our students.

There is no way they would be there without us.

46 Students
at Rhodes
University

37 Students at
University of
Cape Town

16 Students at
Wits University

43 Students at
University of
Johannesburg

51 Students
University of
Western Cape

12 Students at
Cape Peninsula
University

14 Students
at Pretoria
University

22 Students at
Walter Sisulu
University

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

We are investing in a generation of university graduates that will be empowered to uplift their own families, solve their own community's problems and serve as role models to other youth.

The Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing National Lockdown resulted in the universities closing for 2 months. Residences were closed and all students were sent home.

Six weeks into the lockdown, the universities had all decided to transition to online learning. This was chaotic, to put it mildly. Professors took drastically different approaches to their courses and many of our students struggled immensely with ill-prepared professors and instructors.

It goes without say that our students are at an enormous disadvantage when it comes to e-learning. They live in crowded households without adequate study space. Many lost family members due to covid, while others had breadwinners lose jobs.

Despite these unprecedented challenges, our students managed to obtain an incredible 92.7% pass-rate.

On our side, we continued to provide an enormous amount of support to the students. Our mentors were in contact with them every week. We had been distributed food parcels, food vouchers and monthly stipends to hundreds of them. We purchased laptops and textbooks.

Importantly, we continued to keep our Masi Houses of Excellence open. These were safe havens for our most impoverished students and were literally the difference between the students making it through the year and not doing so.

All in all, the university students were lucky to be in a position to continue with their studies. Academically speaking, the pandemic has left them relatively unscathed in comparison to younger learners who cannot attend schools, workers who cannot attend work and other members of society who are locked down in their home.

With your support, we were able to ensure another outstanding performance by the students during a near impossible to imagine year.



MASINYUSANE HOUSE OF EXCELLENCE

Masinyusane is providing housing to some of the most impoverished students in Port Elizabeth. Without this assistance, these students would be deemed as a high 'failure' risk due to living in abject poverty.

We have kept our Masinyusane Houses of Excellence open for our most impoverished students, even though campus is closed.

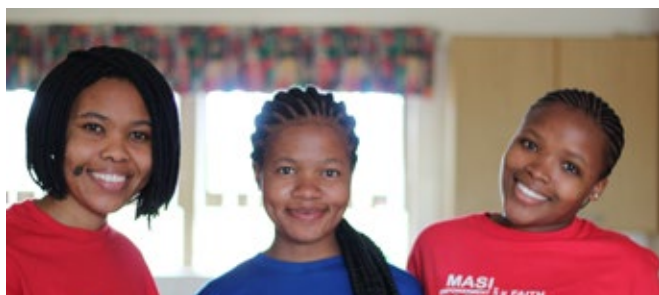
The students in the house come from informal settlements, live with 10+ people in a household and/or come from homes with severe challenges. They are the 'poorest' five percent of our entire cohort of students.

The odds of them succeed via the new e-learning pathway offered by the university was

simply not realistic.

We regret to share that the mother of one of these students has passed away from covid-19. It's been very difficult, but the other students have rallied around here with love and support.

The house continues to provide the students with a safe, secure home next to campus. It includes study areas, free food, computers & internet access and daily mentoring from Masinyusane staff.



**27 Students
Sponsored by
You**

TUITION

You are ensuring that finances do not get in the way of promising youth from Port Elizabeth's townships in obtaining their education. Despite the Free Education initiative, a handful of students fall through the cracks every year. Without your assistance, none of them would be in university today. The following are two stories of lives changed:



Asanda Mrwali

Asanda is in her 2nd year of a Higher Certificate in Business Studies. Last year, she passed 80% of her classes, but wasn't allowed to continue into the Diploma programme without passing all of her modules.

She is an example of a student that often falls through the cracks, because despite passing 80% of her modules, NSFAS will not fund her for this year as she is repeating modules in a Higher Certificate Course.

You are ensuring that her education can continue and isn't derailed by an obscure policy.



Ethel Mavaivai

Ethel is in her 2nd year of a Diploma in Analytical Chemistry on a full Masi scholarship. She once again did outstanding with her studies, passing all of her classes!

The Masinyusane team loves Ethel, she is kind, hard-working and driven to succeed.

"Thank you so much for everything you have done for me, you have brought hope in my life. You made me step my legs through the university gate. I will never forget you in my life. Thank you so much."

PROJECT GRADUATES



Since launching our Scholarship Fund, 165 of our students graduated from Nelson Mandela University. Each graduation is special; a time of many emotions for all of us. Pride. Joy. Excitement.

The highlight of every year are our graduations. This year, we were expecting to host graduation parties for our students once again. Unfortunately, all ceremonies were canceled due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Over the life of this project, we have seen 165 students graduate from Nelson Mandela University.

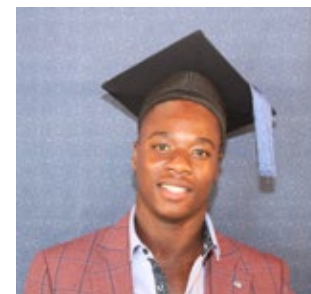
We will have to postpone those graduation celebrations and revisit in 2021 (or whenever

the pandemic allows).

We are very excited to see the young stars enter corporate South Africa and prove themselves.

We will keep all of you posted with the next phase in their journey.

This achievement seemed like an impossible dream not long ago. Thank you for helping to make those dreams a reality.



EMPLOYED GRADUATES



Asanda Ngwendu is currently a nurse in Sterkspruit.



Viwe Xuba is currently a teacher in the Eastern Cape.



Thamie Mkhosana is an economist at First National Bank



Siphethuxolo Ntsudwane is working at the Port Elizabeth airport



Phelisa Mkwambi works in the finance department at Edgars



Thulie Grootboom works as the municipality in the accounts department



Empowering Through Education