



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



Advancing the quality of youth education in under-resourced areas

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year, I opened this report reflecting on the floods that had devastated parts of the Eastern Cape. This year, our Project Partners in that province faced trials of a different nature. An unprecedented crime wave swept through the region in which several of our partners work, disrupting operations and threatening the safety of staff and beneficiaries. Kamvalethu responded by funding a comprehensive security system for the Bulungula Incubator, which has been critical in stabilising their work. Meanwhile, near Coffee Bay, flood damage to municipal infrastructure left the region without water for nine months — a sobering reminder that the communities our partners serve continue to bear the heaviest burden of both crime and climate. In December, Ngoko Montessori lost its beloved principal, Nomaphuzi Mtyana, after a long illness. And if that was not enough, shortly before I began writing this report, Sis Lindi, the Education Manager at Bulungula Incubator, died tragically as a result of a house-fire. We honour the leadership and love for the children that both these outstanding women demonstrated.

Yet if you read this report from cover to cover — and I hope you will — the story that emerges is not one of defeat, but of extraordinary resilience and renewal. Despite everything, our Project Partners delivered fully on their programmes, and in many cases achieved their best results yet.

Nationally, there are encouraging signs that early childhood development and foundational learning are at last receiving the attention they deserve, with government expanding the ECD subsidy* and driving the registration of ECD centres**. We saw this momentum reach our own partners: Ncinci One's was officially awarded the government ECD subsidy, and Ikhaya Labantwana received a meaningful increase in state funding. For organisations in deeply rural areas, this represents exactly the kind of long-term sustainability we work towards.

That focus on sustainability guided our portfolio transitions this year, as our formal funding terms with two long-standing partners came to a close. Jabulani marked an extraordinary milestone by handing over its pre-school (assets included) to Teacher Lydia, fulfilling a vision of community-led ownership. As our cycles with both Jabulani and Ncinci One's ended, we opened our portfolio to new partnerships: welcoming The LifeMatters Foundation at the start of 2025 and exploring the world of development surfing through a partnership with a local surf club that sent 6 development surfers to a national competition.

There were milestones to savour throughout the portfolio: Hatch celebrated its tenth anniversary while growing its reach by more than a quarter; the Otto Foundation opened three new libraries; and our literacy and

numeracy partners produced measurable learning gains that far outstripped their control groups. Statistics never tell the full story, but the numbers in this report speak of thousands of lives touched.

A highlight closer to home was our Kamvalethu partnership days, where staff and clients rolled up their sleeves alongside Hatch, the Otto Foundation and LifeMatters. There is no substitute for seeing — and doing — the work first-hand, and these days deepened the bond between our Business Partners and our Projects.

Financially, our income was on par with our previous year, while our expenses decreased by 12% and we increased our distributions by 13%.

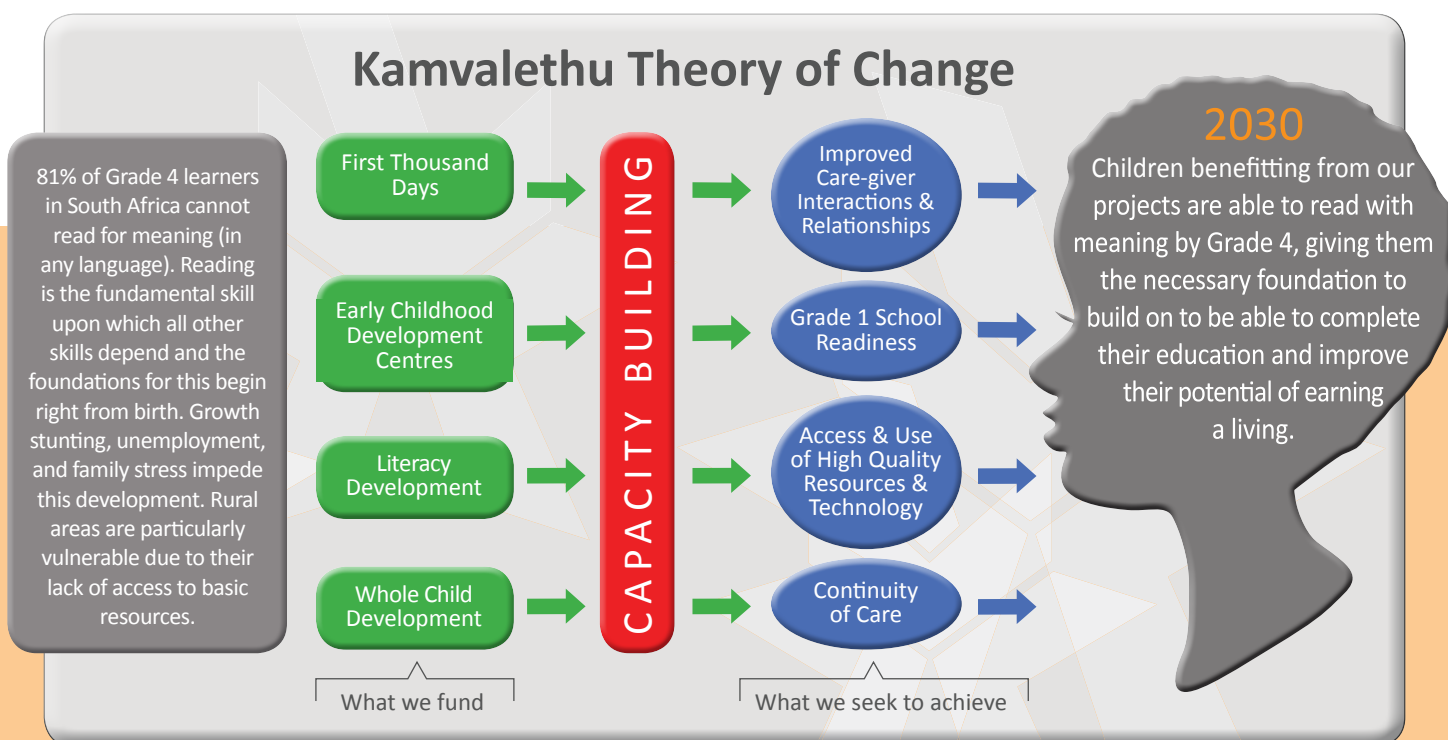
Finally, on behalf of the board of trustees, I want to once again thank our Programme Director, Jenni-Kate Warwick, whose energy and devotion to our Project Partners remain the engine of this organisation, and our Business Partners, whose generosity — in funding, time and expertise — makes all of this possible. It is a privilege to join hands with them, and with the remarkable people whose stories fill the pages that follow.

Rowan Haarhoff CHAIRMAN
B.A. LLB (UCT), B.Th. (UP), Lic.Th.(CTBS)

**In the March 2025 national budget, Finance Minister Godongwana announced an additional R10 billion added to the baseline to expand access to early education, increasing the ECD subsidy from R17 per child per day to R24, with the extra funding supporting access to ECD for 700,000 more children up to age five.*

***The Bana Pele Mass Registration Drive, helping unregistered ECD programmes comply, and the drive aimed to register more than 20,000 unregistered ECD programmes by December 2025 so they can access the subsidy.*

Kamvalethu Theory of Change





Munro volunteers with the Hatch team

HATCH (FIRST THOUSAND DAYS)

In 2025, Hatch celebrated our 10th Anniversary! Since 2015 Hatch has supported mothers and babies from underserved communities in the very first days of life by providing care packages filled with newborn essentials. Kamvalethu's funding supports our Hatch bag programme, allowing us to deliver more bags and reach more moms and babies every year.

This year we delivered 917 Hatch bags, a 27% increase on 2024, surpassing our goal for the year. We delivered 727 bags to Groote Schuur Maternity Ward, which was more than our entire total of bags delivered last year. In addition, we also continued to support community-based programmes,

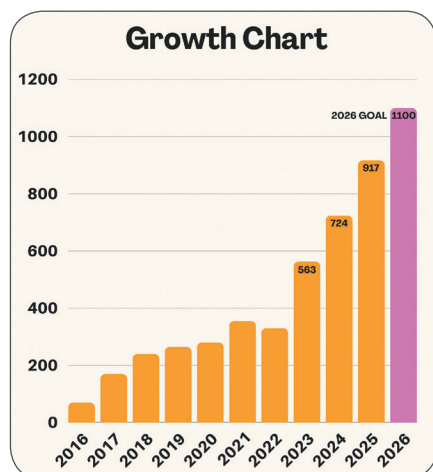
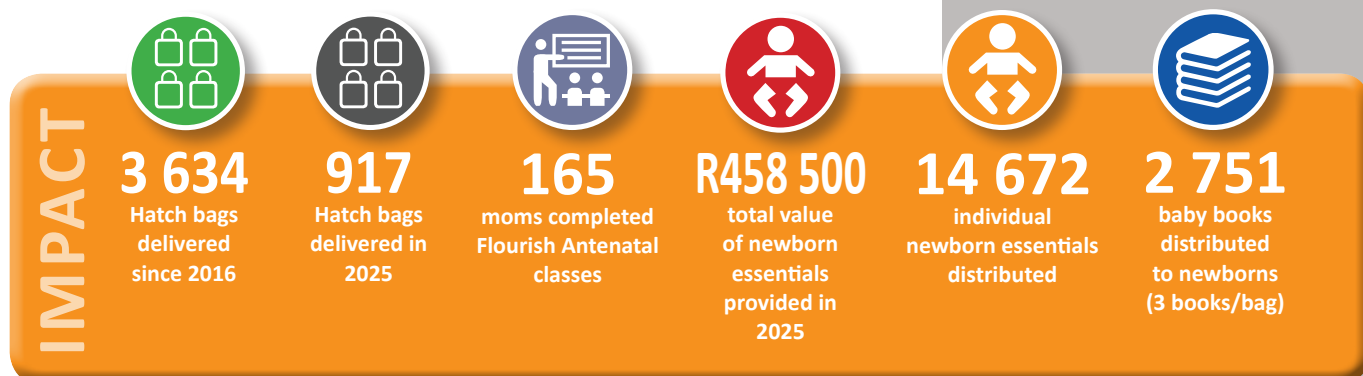
including Flourish Antenatal classes and Intyatyambo Yesizwe Teen Moms. Thanks to our partnership with Kamvalethu, we have grown our distribution steadily every year.

We were also supported by local South African businesses, schools and organisations big and small, and were encouraged by their generosity and spirit of giving back. We focused on strengthening our existing funding partnerships while building new ones and 2025 saw the start of several exciting new relationships. Accurately capturing our beneficiaries' information has been a challenge for us and we trialed new methods of data capture, which will be rolled out fully across all

distribution partners in 2026. We're looking forward to ironing out these challenges with the new technology that we are implementing.

Hatch does not have any full-time staff and we rely on volunteers to help us at our packing days. Each packing day brought volunteers from all walks of life together to pay it forward, and we loved sharing our work with those who care so deeply about others. Kamvalethu's team and clients joined us twice this year to help pack Hatch bags and we loved being able to share our work with those who support it.

Christy Smith, The Hatch Foundation



Quote from a beneficiary at Groote Schuur Hospital:

"Thank you very much for the baby goodies received. As a first time mom I am extremely grateful for the item I have received. I hope that I will be able to give back to someone in need as well. The items are all coming in good use, as you can never have enough of everything. Thank you very much again."



New mom with Hatch bag

THE LIFEMATTERS FOUNDATION (FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY)



End of year celebration with Centre Manager, Jody

The LifeMatters Foundation believes that every life matters and deserves our help to build strong foundations to discover their worth and to reach their full potential. Our mission is to provide holistic support in the form of academic and life skills intervention, so that children are equipped to reach their full potential and become active citizens.

The generous support of the Kamvalethu Foundation in 2025 enabled The LifeMatters Foundation to implement our Numeracy Intervention Programme at Lourier Primary School. Our aim is to help children develop the foundational numeracy skills they need while supporting them to grow into confident learners who are intellectually, emotionally and socially equipped to reach their full potential. The programme focuses on helping learners master key mathematical concepts required

for success in Grade 2 of the Revised National Curriculum. Through structured, targeted intervention, learners strengthen their understanding, build confidence and develop the foundational skills needed to succeed.

During 2025, 14 learners received 715 hours of numeracy intervention. To measure the effectiveness of the programme, learners complete the same assessment mid-year that they wrote at the end of the previous year. Their results are then compared with those of a control group of learners who are not part of the programme.

The results at Lourier Primary were highly encouraging. Learners in the Numeracy Programme improved their scores by an average of 41%, compared with an average improvement of 16% among learners in the control group.

One particularly inspiring success story illustrates the impact of this intervention. A learner who initially scored 37.5% on her Grade 1 numeracy assessment participated in five months of focused support through



Maths games in action

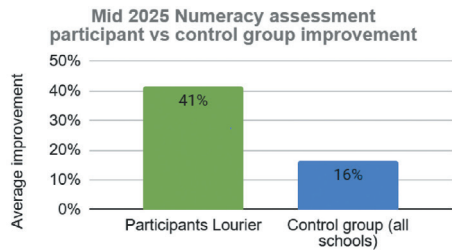
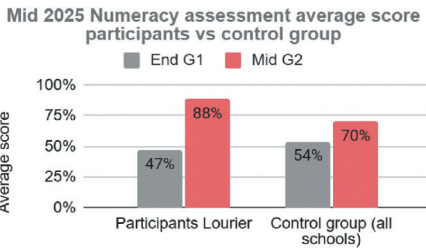


Working together

The LifeMatters Foundation

the programme. She went on to achieve 100% on the same assessment, completed the Numeracy manual by the end of Term 3, and achieved full marks on her final exit assessment. She is now confidently keeping up with the demands of the curriculum and thriving in her mainstream classroom – a milestone that once seemed out of reach.

Nix Bowley, The LifeMatters Foundation



THE OTTO FOUNDATION (SCHOOL LIBRARIES)



The Otto Foundation creates and manages libraries and reading programmes at a cluster of schools in Cape Town. Our ten current school libraries are located in District Six and the Cape Town CBD. The Foundation's mission is to foster a love of reading and deepen the reading culture in our school communities. When children have access to books they love, in spaces that celebrate their creativity, they begin to see reading not as a task or a technical skill, but as a journey of joyful exploration. Research shows that a child's propensity to read for enjoyment can be a stronger predictor of their long-term success in education than the socio-economic circumstances that they grow up in. The Kamvaletu Foundation supports the Otto Foundation with funding for new library projects, as well as operational funding for the existing library network.

In 2025, the Otto Foundation opened the Rahmah Library at Rahmaniyeh Primary School, the Blue Sky Library at Seven Steps Academy for the Deaf, and the Happy Library at St Mary's Primary School. The Kamvaletu Foundation was a key contributor to the custom-built Rahmah Library which was created in partnership with the Rotary Club of Newlands and architectural firm The Maak. The design approach for this library has been celebrated as a unique process of

"design in dialogue" in which user-led insights make the school and learners feel seen in their own library. Kamvaletu's contribution to operational cost of the Otto Foundation libraries and the programmes that are run from those libraries helps to ensure that each library has a full-time librarian and is an active hub - a place where learners explore, express themselves, and grow as readers and writers.

Frouwien Bosman, The Otto Foundation



Rainbow Library Learners

"Since the opening of the Rahmah library there is a marked improvement in the level of creative writing and expressive language used by our learners." – **Intermediate Phase Head of Department, Rahmaniyeh Primary School**

"Libraries teach people how to read and make more people smart" – **Learner, Seven Steps Academy for the Deaf**

"Dear Book. Thank you for helping me through tough times and making me laugh instead of crying. Thank you for being there for me always." – **Letter to a book from a Grade 4 learner, Chapel Street Primary School**



Rahmah Library - Kamvaletu Visit



Rahmah Library Learners

"The Happy Library has brought about wonderful change" at our school. The children are excited about visiting the library and enjoy the space and books." – **Intermediate Phase Head of Department, St Mary's Primary School**

IMPACT



62 326
books were checked out of Otto Foundation libraries in 2025



58
local author visits and book readings at Otto Foundation libraries



418
learners participated in our 2025 writing competition



896
learners from eight schools participated in our 2025 Pen Pal project



7 962
book reviews were completed in our quarterly book review competitions



256
curriculum-aligned library lessons available for free download on the Otto Foundation website

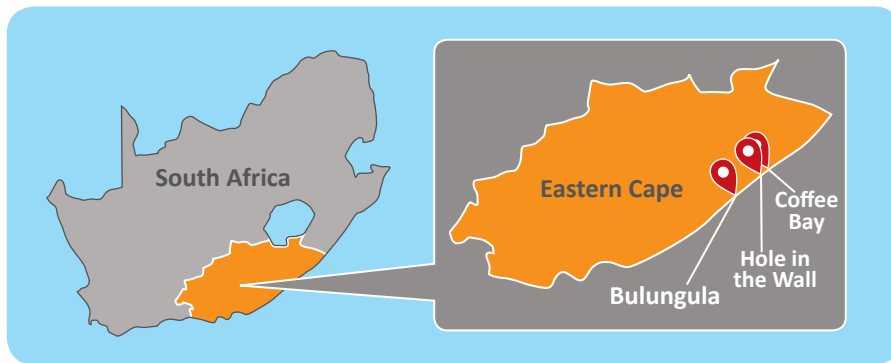


165
library lessons hosted weekly in 2025

BULUNGULA INCUBATOR (PRECONCEPTION TO CAREER)

Bulungula Incubator (BI) is a place-based organisation working to sustainably end poverty in the Xhora Mouth Administrative Area of the Eastern Cape through an integrated “Preconception to Career” approach. Kamvalethu has been a valued partner since 2017, and in 2025, continued to support BI’s core programmes across health, education, early childhood development, youth acceleration, and livelihoods, ensuring continuity of essential services in a deeply rural context. In response to a regional crime wave in 2024 and early 2025, Kamvalethu also provided additional funding for a comprehensive security system, including AI-enabled thermal cameras, solar-powered infrastructure, and real-time monitoring, which has been critical in stabilising operations and ensuring the safety of staff and beneficiaries.

Despite significant disruption at the start of the year due to an unprecedented crime wave that affected our region, BI maintained full programme delivery, demonstrating resilience and sustained impact. A key achievement was the launch of the Social Employment Fund (SEF), in partnership with the Nosintu Gwebindlala Foundation,



bulungula incubator

which has created 1,000 jobs focused on community gardens and environmental management. BI also established a rural Sentinel Site in partnership with SALDRU (UCT), the Human Sciences Research Council, the Presidency of South Africa, and SAPRIN, marking a transition toward contributing to national research and policy. The crime challenges faced during the year further accelerated leadership development, succession planning, and organisational strengthening.

Sigrid Kite-Banks, Bulungula Incubator



New security in place

“I come from a rural village where opportunities are limited, but through Bulungula I have been able to grow, gain experience, and now study Sustainable Development at university. It showed me that where you come from does not limit where you can go.”

Yonwaba Olo, Jujurha ECD alum (2011), Vulindlela Scholarship Programme alum, Job Skills and Entrepreneurship Programme alum (2025)

IMPACT



3 580

unique beneficiaries in Xhora Mouth with additional beneficiaries reached beyond this area



168

children enrolled at five Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres (ages 3–6)



900

hot meals served daily to learners and staff at Bulungula College and all ECD sites



1 300

primary school learners received two additional maths and literacy sessions per week through the iiTablet Tshomiz programme



2 355

household visits conducted by Community Health Workers



183

graduates of the Job Skills and Entrepreneurship Programme, 81% are engaged in productive activities



1 000

jobs created through the Social Employment Fund partnership



ECD @Home visit with Community Health Worker



Bulungula Community Radio DJ

IKHAYA LABANTWANA (ECD CENTRE)

Sustainable Coffee Bay partners with our community to improve lives by increasing access to quality education, skills, and employment, striving to inspire others as role models of excellence. Funded by Kamvalethu, Ikhaya Labantwana Montessori (ILM) is the area's first purpose-built pre-school. It offers integrated education, health, nutrition, and social services while aiming to foster independence, respect, and a lifelong love of learning across all planes of development.

2025 brought both major challenges and big wins. The greatest hurdle was a 9-month regional water outage caused by flood damage to the municipal treatment plant, which spiked local infections like gastro and ringworm. Fortunately, ILM's four JoJo tanks and sporadic rainfall sustained the school through December, supplemented by greywater harvesting for toilets and gardens. Outbreaks of pink eye and chickenpox also briefly disrupted teaching early in the year.

On a positive note, Friday swimming lessons at the Mapuzi River with B-Foundation volunteers helped our 15 readiness children build immense confidence. By the end of the first term, 75% were water-confident, able to float, and learning basic strokes. Additionally, Parent workshops and the Home Facilitation programme successfully boosted school and workshop attendance while helping parents extend education into the home. We are deeply grateful to the Department of Education for increasing our funding from 31 to 44 children, securing our mission to provide quality Montessori schooling and daily nutritious meals alongside our 5-year Gold Registration status.

Health-wise, our readiness children received vision and hearing assessments via



Grace Vision and Zithulele Audiology. We are incredibly proud of our vastly improved ELOM results, achieved by targeting weaker learning areas over the year. Consequently, 9 of our 15 readiness learners were accepted into Jonga Montessori Elementary School. Finally, our bountiful year-round vegetable harvests successfully provided essential, nutritious additions to all school lunches.

Gill Holder, Ikhaya Labantwana Montessori

A quote from a beneficiary, **Vuyokazi Sofana** - our cook, mother, grandmother and guardian at ILM. Her 4 children and 1 grandchild have completed their 3 to 6-year Montessori programme at ILM. Her niece now attends ILM, too. *"I want to thank the one who brought Montessori to Jonga Village because we didn't know Montessori before. It is good for the children. I choose (it) because they train the children in everything— independence, self-discipline and good education. The way we are teaching the children is different because we use concrete material, not just saying. The child is doing for themselves. The teachers are kind and use the right way for discipline...The foundation is so good. Our children know how to respect other children. They have good manners and courtesy."*



Gross motor development in action



Classroom learning



Happy children at ILM

NCINCI ONE'S MONTESSORI (ECD CENTRE)

Ncinci One's Montessori is based at Hole in the Wall and provides Montessori education for young Xhosa children during their critical years. It provides a prepared environment for the children in which they are able to develop themselves and build solid educational foundations in early learning areas. In 2025, Kamvaletu's funds supported the salaries of the main drivers of the school, as well as the nutrition for the children.

2025 presented significant regional and operational challenges. Despite this, there are highlights to celebrate. After navigating rigorous compliance pathways, Ncinci One's was officially awarded the government ECD subsidy. This funding provides a critical financial baseline for the school's daily running costs and represents a positive step toward long-term sustainability. 100% of the age-appropriate learners successfully passed their school-readiness assessments and have progressed into local primary schools, equipped with a solid foundation.



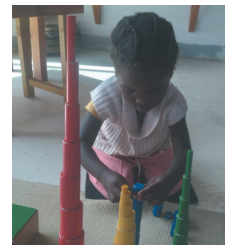
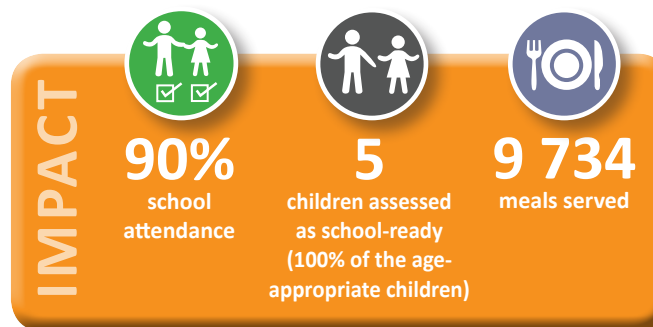
Learning to write my sounds



Matching written names with objects



Sorting land, air and water pictures



Stacking cups to assist with early problem solving



Activities of daily life

JABULANI (ECD CENTRE)

Between 2007 and 2025, the Jabulani Rural Health Foundation evolved from a support structure for Zithulele Hospital into a multifaceted development organisation, with projects spanning healthcare support, early childhood development, environmental stewardship, and poverty relief. The Zithulele Preschool, launched in 2009, was our first non-health project.

2025 was a year of highs and lows. The school reached Bronze level registration with the Department of Basic Education, though subsidy eligibility, and timelines

remain uncertain. For the first time, a Preschool Mentor was employed to strengthen overall school operations (not teaching) – while not all plain sailing, by year-end, improvements were observed in administration, record-keeping, and communication with parents. The school year was, however, affected by wider organisational pressures and funding challenges, prompting a strategy renewal that has shifted Jabulani's focus toward livelihoods development, thus ending our direct management of the now 'Zithulele Montessori Preschool'.

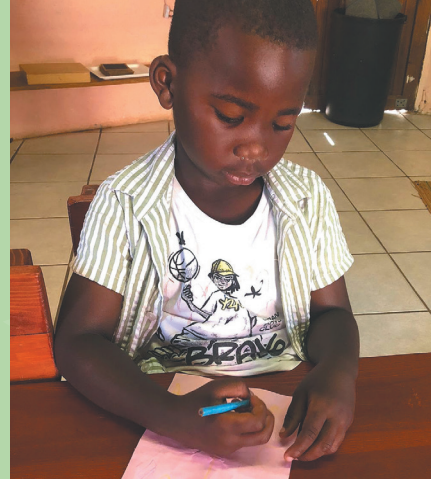


Getting creative together

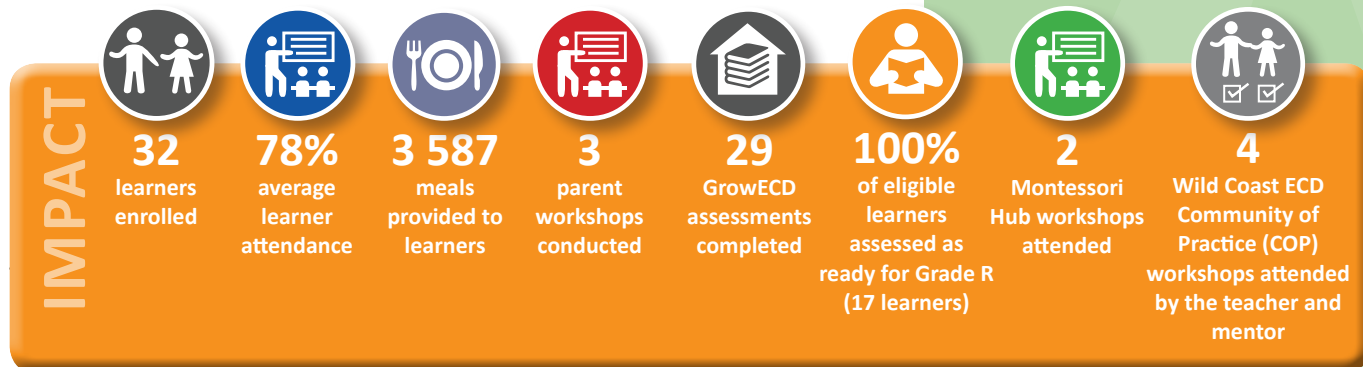
This change, however, enabled us to reach a significant milestone: rather than closing the school, we handed the preschool over to Teacher Lydia at the end of 2025, including all assets, fulfilling a long-held organisational vision and development plan, as well as Lydia's personal dream. Although no longer managing day-to-day operations, under the livelihoods banner, Jabulani will continue to mentor and support Lydia, helping her develop the preschool as a quality early childhood education service and a viable, sustainable enterprise.

Catherine Young, Jabulani Rural Health Foundation

"I smile to see the children holding their crayons and pencils well, to see the children's drawings, to see them doing activities for example, using the button frame, counting, playing with sensory materials". **Teacher Lydia**



Practising my pencil grip



NGOKO MONTESSORI (ECD CENTRE)

Our school is dedicated to nurturing the development of children through a prepared environment that fosters independence and a love for lifetime learning. We aim to guide every child to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

Kamvalethu funding supports staff salaries, practitioners development workshops, Parent workshops and ELOM assessments, strengthening the quality of our educational programme. All the children in our school-readiness class advanced to Grade One.

2025 was a very tough year for us at Ngoko Montessori. Our principal, Nomaphuzi, was very ill for most of the year and sadly passed away in December. She will be remembered for her strong leadership, her love for the children and her love for learning.

Amina Fynn, Ngoko Montessori

"I am the grandmother of Liyama. She graduated from Ngoko last year. Thank you Ngoko. She went to Grade 1 at Xonyeni and after 3 months they put her in Grade 2. I am very grateful to Ngoko."



Early numeracy



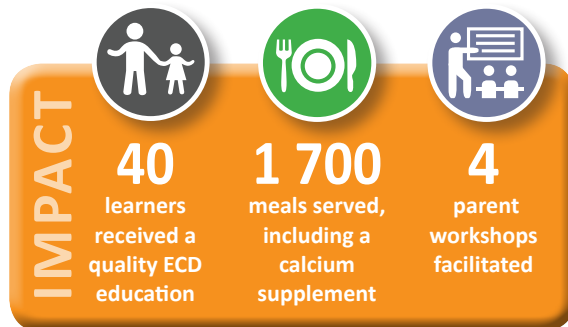
Using a circles tray to explore size and develop fine motor skills



Learning shapes



Ready to learn



AXIUM EDUCATION (FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY)

Axium Education works to raise student achievement in the rural Eastern Cape communities. In 2025, we marked 16 years of work with schools in these communities. We believe in the untapped potential of every rural learner, and we work across multiple levels of the education system, supporting learners directly, developing teachers and school leaders, and collaborating with system actors, so that every rural student can leave school with purpose, agency, and post-school options.

Kamvalethu’s support has been directed toward the Nobalisa Programme, Axium’s flagship youth employment and early literacy initiative, which trains and deploys young people from rural communities to deliver timetabled isiXhosa literacy lessons

to Grade R to 3 learners using the Teaching at the Right Level methodology. In 2025, the Nobalisa Programme expanded to 49 schools across 6 rural locations, with 86 new facilitators, 10 leaders, and 3 mentors joining the team. We launched a Pilot Study across 31 schools as a precursor to a full Randomised Control Trial, successfully conducting baseline EGRA assessments across all evaluation schools. A new satellite office on Mqanduli Road improved access to 12 schools located over 50km from the main site.

The unpredictability of the Social Employment Fund has affected consistent delivery, and foundation phase literacy results remain below our 50% benchmark



target. We are addressing this through a new programmatic model and a 2026 partnership with Year Beyond.
Nonhlanhla Mahlobisa, Axium Education

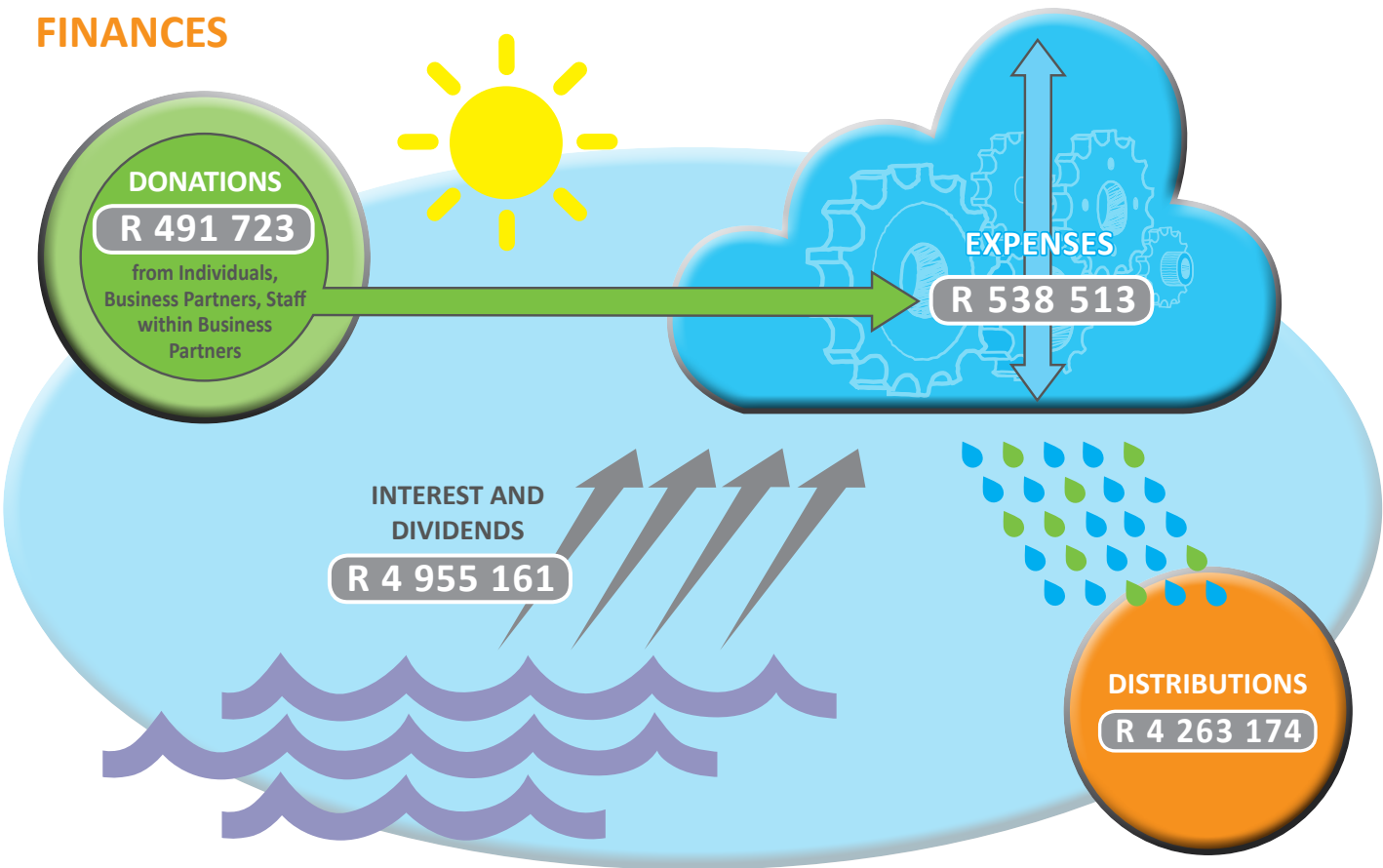
“I always say that a rural child has the same potential as any urban or township child. One Grade 3 teacher told me excitedly, ‘Our children took first place in the spelling bee for the first time in our school’s history.’ Moments like that remind me why our work matters.”
Pam Mdlandla, Nobalisa Site Leader



Nobalisa Reading Club



FINANCES



		FY2026	FY2025	ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOTES
IN	Donations Received	R 491 723	R 881 862	
	Dividends and Interest Earned	R 4 955 161	R 4 611 816	Dividends increased
	TOTAL	R 5 446 884	R 5 493 678	-0,85% decrease
OUT	Expenses Paid	R 538 513	R 614 909	-12,42% decrease
	Out of the Ordinary	-	-	
	Distributions Made	R 4 263 174	R 3 767 015	13,17% increase

FINANCIALS

The Kamvalethu Foundation Trust (Registration Number IT1928/2013)

For the 12 months ended 28 February 2026

INCOME		
Donations Received: Individuals	R 7 450	
Donations Received: Business	R 482 500	
Donations Received: MySchool	R 1 773	
Dividends Received: Business	R 4 472 500	
Other Income	400	
Interest Received	R 482 261	
Total Income	R 5 446 884	
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accounting, Bank, Legal and Management Fees	R 59 647	
Employee Costs (including payroll, salaries and training)	R 363 227	
Development Costs	R 53 747	
Marketing and Events	R 43 070	
Resources	R 10 938	
Entertainment	R 7 883	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	R 538 513	
OPERATING PROFIT	R 4 908 371	
NON-OPERATING EXPENSES		
Distributions to Beneficiaries	R 4 263 174	
Net Profit	R 645 197	
<i>The above is based on Audited Financial Statements</i>		

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

We are honoured to partner with incredible businesses and the passionate individuals behind them. You are an essential part of the Kamvalethu Foundation, and we value both your financial support and your generosity of spirit over the past year.

A big thank you to Lynne Snell for her help with proofreading this report, and to the Kamvalethu Board for consistently putting the needs of our beneficiaries first.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to our amazing Project Partners. Your passion, commitment, and perseverance in the face of ongoing challenges continue to inspire us every day.



kamvalethu

Our Future

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scan to donate

