

FIGHTING POVERTY ACROSS OUR NATION

NLC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND



NLC
NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION
a member of the dtic group



The government has committed to build a new economy post COVID-19, at the centre of which would be creation of jobs.

Ray of hope for embattled youth amid Corona carnage

PYSA mitigates effects of jobs bloodbath in SA

President Cyril Ramaphosa said last week that the country has lost over three million jobs due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The virus, which has already killed thousands of people and infected more than 370 000 people in South Africa, has wreaked untold havoc on the economy of the country and led to many livelihoods being lost.

Statistics South Africa recently reported that in the first quarter of this year, 10.3-million people aged between 15 and 24 – approximately 3.5-million, or 34.1% of whom are youth – were not in employment. It is within this context that Proud Youth South Africa (PYSA) has used funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) to save jobs for the youth, women, aspiring artists, local small businesses, cooperatives and stakeholders.

PYSA, which was formed in 2015, has played a part in helping more than 150 beneficiaries. The organisation's passion lies in remote rural areas that have very

limited access to resources and opportunities. The organisation promotes progressive economic transformation, particularly for youth and women.

It has a national footprint, with its sponsored headquarters based in Sandton, Johannesburg.

"The funding received from the NLC is critical for our organisation, as it not only allows us to implement our projects, but also to extend our reach to the previously most disadvantaged communities. Through our activities, youth, women, cooperatives, SMMEs are provided an opportunity to render their services and showcase their talent and brand," says PYSA director and treasurer Afika Xintolo.

"We pride ourselves in boosting morale

in the community and stimulating the local economy for vendors and unemployed. Thus far the NLC funding has enabled our organisation to sustain jobs, sufficient income and good livelihoods of those who were privileged to [take part in] our projects."

At last month's Youth Day celebrations, Ramaphosa reiterated the government's commitment to build a new economy post COVID-19, at the centre of which would be creation of jobs and opportunities for the youth to thrive.



The PYSA is striving to stimulate the local economy for vendors and unemployed people.



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Principal's drive rewarded with stipend assistance



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"The NLC changed my life for the better"



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Bringing medication to sick in Vergenoeg



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Cuban-trained doctor steps into COVID-19 ring

Mpelege Pre-Primary School (NC)

Worry over jobs replaced by joy for pre-primary school workers

Principal's drive rewarded with stipend assistance

Twelve staff members from Mpelege Pre-Primary School in Sesheng, outside Kathu in the Northern Cape, must have feared the worst when they were told to report to the school, only for their fears to be replaced by joy at being told that they would be benefitting from the National Lotteries Commission's (NLC) COVID-19 relief fund.

Now principal Shirley Kailane can't stop singing the praises of the good work that the NLC has been doing.

The 12 employees who benefited from the relief fund are from Kuruman, Mapoteng, Loopeng village, Taung and Upington.

"It was something unexpected to them because at the time when they were asked to come to the school, some thought that they were being called to sign off their contracts due to lack of income," says Kailane.

"The contribution made a huge difference to our staff members' lives. They managed to buy winter clothes, medicines and groceries during winter and lockdown."

Mpelege Pre-Primary School was established in 1998. It started with 40 pupils and three staff catering for children aged one to six. The school is currently operating with 135 children and 12 staff members and assists



Mpelege Pre-Primary School, established in 1998, is currently operating with 135 children and 12 staff members. It also assists pupils from other schools with their homework.

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The partnership with the NLC started in 2014 when it funded

the school with learning equipment and provided stipends.

"Since the lockdown period our staff did not receive their full stipends because there were no parental fees [payments] made. I went all out to ensure that I help my staff get some financial relief," explains Kailane.

"I live 65km from here [Katu] and due to COVID-19 regulations, I was not allowed to travel to other towns without being permitted.

"However, I managed to travel from Kuruman to Katu without any problem to ask school governing body members to go to the bank and get the confirmation letter in order to speed up the application process of the relief fund, which was left with three days before closing."

“

The contribution made a huge difference to our staff members' lives

Limpopo Mental Health Society (LP)

Mental health suffers blows from COVID-19

Suicidal behaviour on the increase

Depression and anxiety cases have increased during the COVID-19 global pandemic lockdown, leading to a huge demand for mental health services.

Priscilla Mulaudzi, provincial director of the Limpopo Mental Health Society, a non-governmental organisation that provides these services to communities, says many people live in fear of losing their jobs and dying from Coronavirus.

It is for this reason that the NGO has intervened in an effort to help such people cope and adjust to this new and hostile environment.

According to the World Health Organisation, "the main psychological impact of COVID-19 relates to elevated rates of stress



The NLC grant has, among others, helped the Limpopo Mental Health Society distribute food parcels and counsel anxious individuals who are worried about losing their jobs.

or anxiety". As a result, levels of loneliness, depression, harmful alcohol and drug use, and self-harm or suicidal behaviour are expected to increase.

Mulaudzi says her organisation caters for two groups. "One group is those who were born with a brain that is not fully grown. Then we have those with

psychosocial disabilities – those that due to life issues, develop mental issues.

"These are people who stay in hospital and later require rehabilitation in order to be reintegrated back into the respective community."

Because the organisation is more experienced in the

field, it lends its expertise to small community groups that operate within its field of work.

She explains that more often they work with individuals without formal training, but who have altruistic qualities and who are caring for children and people with mental disabilities, noting that some of the organisations they support got NLC's COVID-19 relief funding.

The Limpopo Mental Health Society has 32 centres in Mopane, Capricorn, Vhembe district and Collins Chabane. It's short-term plan is to extend its reach to cover Sekhukhune and Waterberg.

The NLC grant has enabled the mental health society continue with its services.

The national lotteries grant has also made it possible for the Limpopo-based organisation to pay for staff salaries and cover operational costs like rent.

Destined for Greatness Organisation (NC)


Boingotlo Lephoi

Ensuring youth can still fulfill their destiny

The biggest challenge that the Destined for Greatness organisation faced in the middle of the lockdown restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic was not being able to pay salaries and stipends on time and having to lose the place that they were renting in Kimberley, in the Northern Cape.

"The National Lotteries Commission's [NLC] COVID-19 relief fund helped us a lot. Our staff, who have suffered a loss of income that they heavily depended on, managed to feed their families. In such a climate of uncertainty and economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were grateful to the NLC's relief fund for helping our staff," says Boingotlo Lephoi, the organisation's project manager.

The partnership with the NLC started in 2018 for the three-year-old organisation that empowers local youth to generate income through craft activities and conducts empowering training programmes. The relief fund from the NLC helped the organisation to procure stationery, data and pay the salaries and stipends of the staff and volunteers in June.

The organisation has four volunteers and four staff. Its programmes usually take place at the Mayibuye Centre in the heart of Galeshewe. The volunteers and staff who benefited were ecstatic to be part of thousands of beneficiaries from across the country.

"We would like to thank the NLC for the relief fund that assisted us to pay salaries and stipends for our staff and volunteers who were already on a precarious financial footing and facing situations where they were unable to support themselves and their families during this COVID-19 period.

"We were very grateful to the NLC when we were told that we would be benefitting from the grant. As a result of COVID-19, the sad and unavoidable reality is that some of our workshops had to be cancelled and suspended.

"We have been dealt a catastrophic blow in our operational costs and staff income."

Ekhaya Lethemba Missions (LP)

Helping hand for those who serve with love

Funds help pay staff, feed people and sanitise pupils

Members of the Ekhaya Lethemba Missions in Limpopo say the National Lotteries Commission's (NLC) COVID-19 response campaign has been a great relief to their organisation.

The non-profit organisation's (NPO) managing director, Deborah Makgoba, says they were overwhelmed to be selected as one of the beneficiaries.

Nine staff members and volunteers from areas such as Leb-owakgomo, Male-mang village, Rakgoatha village and Ga-Mphahlele village benefitted from relief funding.

Makgoba explains: "With this funding we managed to stretch our services to reach 464 people at schools by screening and sanitising them when entering the school premises.

"Those who benefitted from the relief fund are always available to render services with passion, even when the organisation has no funds. The donation also assisted with the distribution of food parcels and



Deborah Makgoba

other household necessities.

"The beneficiaries were overwhelmed by the relief fund because it came at a time when they were in desperate need during the pandemic. We were faced with financial strain, the restriction of movement made it difficult to access services and it was difficult to ensure that all staff members had personal protective equipment.

She explains further: "Ekhaya Lethemba believes in enriching the youth with skills and discovering hidden potential, and bringing back love and a sense of belonging to ex-offenders. "Ekhaya Lethemba Missions was established in 2013 to offer spiritual

and counselling support to dysfunctional schools, as well as to teach youth how to behave in a morally degenerating soci-

ty. We play a role of integrating the ex-offenders back into the community.

The NPO started working with the NLC in 2018 and is comprised of 18 people – four staff members, five volunteers and nine board members.

"Some of the programmes



Tebatso Mphahlele of Ekhaya Lethemba Missions takes time to screen and sanitise the pupils.

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Lambani Youth Foundation (LP)

Providing life support to ailing foundation

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) grant helped the Lambani Youth Foundation Project to pay stipends for its workers and to cater for its short-term operations during the COVID-19 national lockdown.

Muthaduli Ratombo, project manager of Lambani Youth Foundation, a non-governmental organisation that operates from Ha-Lambani village, Vhembe district in Venda, says the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a lot of frustrations.

"Currently, we are unable to do anything. We feel dead," laments Ratombo. This is because the foundation's activities are interactive and depend on physical contact that includes large gatherings. However, due to COVID-19 regulations, we are unable to operate.

Ratombo says that the youth foundation was established out of the need to empower young people in an area where poverty is rife and there's visible underdevelopment.

"We aimed to introduce programmes and facilities that can help people in the area improve their lives," he says.

Ratombo explains that the foundation has in the past helped school-leaving youth who were "hopeless and helpless and not knowing what to do after finishing school", to gain knowledge.

He further notes that this has helped the youth get jobs or study further. "We teach the arts and expose participants to technology that can help them further their studies or expand their knowledge in terms of the improvement of their livelihoods," says Ratombo.

Though the foundation targets the youth, it tries to involve the elderly as much as possible. It outsources some of its services to small businesses in the area.

"For example, we outsourced catering and cleaning services to local businesses during one of our open-day events that were held recently. The NLC grant that we received recently helped us with stipends for our workers. We were able to cater for our operations in the short term and the funds were helpful in doing that."

The foundation's relationship with the NLC dates back to 2008 when they first received funding from the commission. He credits the NLC for their success thus far.

"I would encourage any organisation to apply to the NLC. Even our organisation was in the dark before we started approaching the NLC for funding. But because of our good relationship, we are able to refer other organisations like ours on where to go and how to apply for funding."

Ngwana Ledwaba Foundation (LP)

'The NLC has changed my life for the better'

NPO members get relief funding

"To be among National Lotteries Commission's (NLC) beneficiaries has changed my life for the better. I am a proud founder of the Ngwana Ledwaba Foundation and [I] will continue to serve many of my people from different impoverished backgrounds in my community, who need my contribution."

These are the words of a very excited, relieved and grateful Violet Mothiba, a director for the Limpopo-based non-profit organisation (NPO).

Ten members from her organisation, based at Ga-Mashashane, Ga-Molepo and Seshego have benefitted from the NLC's COVID-19 relief fund.

Says Mothiba: "The contribu-



Foundation director Violet Mothiba vows to continue helping the youth.

tion came through at the perfect time during the lockdown [last month]. We were very stressed and hungry. It was a very difficult time for all of us and we had so much uncertainty about the future.

"When we were told that our application has been approved and we will be receiving the funding, the news brought so much relief to us. The NLC made us extremely happy."

Ngwana Ledwaba Foundation, established in 2016, focuses more on youth development. It has 60 recruits who are passionate about the arts and craft

activities such as drama, traditional dance, poetry and music. "We remain thankful and very proud of the NLC and it's amazing support to help many organisations like ours, and

The news [of COVID-19 relief funds] brought so much relief to us

other people in need. "We don't know when will the COVID-19 pandemic end. However, we're committed to continue taking care of our youth," explains Mothiba.

Khanyisa Vusisizwe (GP)

NLC partners Khanyisa to reach out to distressed communities

Alleviation of poverty takes the centre stage

As non-profit organisations are ramping up their support for thousands of poor people in South Africa, financial constraints are hampering their efforts as traditional donors also face a cash crunch due to a weakening economy.

Food-insecure households affected by COVID-19 are also confronting a range of challenges which include breadwinners losing their jobs.

To aid government's effort to alleviate the plight of the poor, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has played a major role in alleviating poverty and hunger among citizens heavily affected by the novel COVID-19 pandemic.

The commission, through its funding scheme, managed to fund more than 10 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across Gauteng, to help it reach out to communities in need of food parcels and essential equipment.

One such NGO that has been providing food parcels in the province and in Mpumalanga is Khanyisa Vusisizwe.

The Tshwane-based organi-



The donation from the NLC has allowed the NGO to provide food parcels for up to 700 families since the lockdown began in March.



Khanyisa members prepare to distribute food parcels in Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

sation is an NGO which, under normal circumstances, focuses on youth, women and sports development among many of

their responsibilities.

However, the outbreak of COVID-19 has forced the NGO to adapt its mandate and meet the needs of the needy battling to put bread on the table.

Tjhudu Mabena from Khanyisa Vusisizwe says the emergence of COVID-19 saw the organisation realising a need to play a role in poverty alleviation and primary healthcare services.

He says the donation from the NLC has allowed the NGO to provide food parcels for up to 700 families since the lockdown began in March.

Explains Mabena: "It is a rewarding job when all things

fall into place. The timely donation from the NLC was indeed decisive in enabling us to feed as many families as we have to date. You must understand that we operate in a tough economic environment where even our donors are under pressure, so for the NLC to open its doors to us and help the needy people is commendable."

Besides the debilitating hunger recorded in the country, the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been another sore point. The pandemic has disrupted supply chains globally and necessitated rapid roll-out of the PPE to health workers countrywide.

Mabena says Khanyisa Vusisizwe, through funding from the NLC, would soon start supplying hospitals with PPE.

"When Covid-19 came, it created more gaps that needed to be plugged and we stepped up and looked for funding to be able to provide much-needed PPE. As an organisation, the funding from NLC has helped us to participate in the crucial fight against COVID-19 by being able to play a role in the supply of PPE to hospitals. We are still waiting for a list of hospitals to be supplied."

"The targeted hospitals are those within the semi-rural areas of Gauteng," he concludes.

Alesitswe (NC)

Uplifting the community through learning

Teenage pregnancy, unemployment, poverty and absence of role models continue to plague the village of Gadiboe in the Northern Cape.

In March 2011, Alesitswe was established as an early childhood development centre (ECD) to cater for the children of the impoverished community, which is about 50km outside of Kuruman.

The centre's head, Morobisi Dorvis, says the early childhood development would assist in dealing with some of the problems that the community is grappling with and create better learners in school and good adults later in life.

The centre, catering for 40 children, is run by Dorvis and three volunteers, caring for kids between the ages of two and four. The organisation ensures the safety of children when their parents go to Upington to provide seasonal labour.

Explains Dorvis: "Children need to be taught some manners, health, physical wellbeing and emotional intelligence before they get ready for school."

She adds that the centre has also become a link between the government departments and the police, where they report cases of child abuse, among



Children need to be taught manners, health, physical wellbeing

Kutlwano Home Base Care (NC)

Bringing medication to sick in Vergenoeg

PPE takes the risk out of home visits

Community members of a remote village called Vergenoeg in the Northern Cape were defaulting on their medication for diseases including HIV/Aids.

This was the situation until the Kutlwano Home-Based Care (HBC) was established in the country's most sparsely populated province. The organisation, which was started in June 2001 by the late Lemogang Julia Bosman, is assisting the community with ensuring that those who need medical help get it and that those who are HIV-positive are not stigmatised and get cared for. The NPO (non-profit organisation) is also assisting people with psychological support.

Mothusi Machogo, project manager, says the organisation also helps children with homework and gives beneficiaries money to go to health facilities.

"The reason why we have



Kutlwano Home-Based Care staff makes sure that members of the community do not default on their medication.

Kutlwano HBC is because we have a lot of members [in our community] who are defaulting on their treatment. We referred them and they refused to go to clinics to collect their treatment because we are far from our clinics. It's 15km from the

village to the hospital," says Machogo.

The organisation has assisted 255 people in the community.

Machogo says they were doing home visits for three days a week, to help community members, adding that the

National Lotteries Commission (NLC) funding has helped the organisation get an office.

"The funding from the NLC has been much appreciated in our organisation. We can say, and I quote: "We were blind, but now we can see."

Machogo adds that they used to work under the trees before the NLC came through with the funding to assist them.

"Our work is easier now because we have our own building. The NLC gave us funding to build it. During this COVID-19, we applied for COVID-19 relief funds, now we have personal protective equipment [PPE] for our community care-givers to be protected while they visit our beneficiaries. We really appreciate the helpful hand of the NLC."

The organisation has support groups for old people, orphans and vulnerable children, Machogo explains, noting that they also do referrals to the departments of social development, home affairs, agriculture and the South African Social Security Agency.

others. Among the challenges, she says, is the small building they use, which is inadequate for the number of children the organisation is catering for.

A study by Ilifa Labantwana, Nelson Mandela Foundation, National ECD Alliance, Smartstart and the South African Congress for Early Childhood Development has found that the ECD sector has fallen on hard times.

The research notes that 99% of operators reported that parents have stopped paying fees owing to the national lockdown, which came into effect late in March, in a bid to curb the spread of the novel Coronavirus.

Dorvis says the funding from the National Lotteries Commission has helped them extend the building, pay stipends to staff, buy food for the children, renovate the old building and buy office equipment. "The funding helped us and we are now meeting good standards for a registered ECD with the Department of Social Development."

Impendulo Foundation (EC)

How proactive funding is countering effects of virus

Shared vision boon for Eastern Cape

Proactive funding is the vehicle that allows the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) to fund worthy causes that are aligned to the broader developmental agenda of the country and respond to emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NLC has disbursed R150-million in proactive funding towards relief to counter the effects of the pandemic.

Impendulo Foundation duly took advantage of this opportunity and applied for relief funding. The organisation has seen the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) in health facilities as a cause worth addressing.

The foundation has identified two rural hospitals – All Saints and Glen Grey Hospital to be supplied with PPE. Impendulo’s partnership agreement with the hospitals is for six months.

Wendy Mpendulo, chairwoman of Impendulo, says funding from the NLC has been critical in order to assist hospitals with the much-needed equipment.

“Driven by appreciation of what the Eastern Cape government is doing in its interven-



EC National Lotteries Commission manager Mzikayise Mani addresses the health-care workers at All Saints Hospital.

tions on this novel pandemic, COVID-19, with the leadership of Mama Tokozile Xasa, Impendulo Foundation identified two hospitals that are in need and made a proposal to the NLC who are our partners today,” Mpendulo says.

“We, the Impendulo Foundation, and the National Lotteries Commission are delighted to contribute to the work of the Eastern Cape government, the frontline soldiers in our hospital community, to make a difference in people’s lives.”

The Eastern Cape has recorded more than 65 000 COVID-19 cases by the start of this week, the third-highest number of infections after Gauteng and the Western Cape.



Wearing masks and proper protective clothing for our frontline workers is critical



Receiving the PPE are All Saints Hospital board chairman Nyalaba Mpinga, left, Engcobo local municipality mayor Siyabulela Zangqa and former minister of sports Thokozile Xasa.

“We are witnessing the horror of this deadly virus. All Eastern Cape citizens and indeed all South Africans must be alive to the fact that this virus is real and killing our people. Wearing masks and proper protective clothing for our frontline workers is critical. And we can only thank the NLC for seeing it fit to partner with us to provide this essential service to our nurses and doctors.”

Impendulo was established in 2012 with offices in OR Tambo district municipality in the Eastern Cape. Its work includes offering relief to the poor and neglected, among others.

All Saints Hospital (EC)

Giving frontline workers in SA a fighting chance

Amid the spike in COVID-19 infections among frontline health-care workers in Eastern Cape health facilities, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC), in collaboration with Impendulo Foundation, donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to rural All Saints Hospital in Engcobo.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the hospital has already recorded nine deaths of professional health-care workers, while more than 40 patients are still in isolation.

The PPE provided includes 10 000 surgical masks, N95 masks for nurses and medical staff plus gloves, high blood pressure test machines and 3 000 litres of sanitisers.

In addition to that, Engcobo local municipality donated microwaves, a gas heater and a television set for those patients who are still in isolation.

Impendulo Foundation operations manager Bony Penka says they were shocked when they got to All Saints Hospital and noticed that there were no basics like sanitiser stands.

“We were very surprised, but thanks to NLC for their intervention,” says Penka.

Penka says besides the PPE donations, they were also going to do training for over six months to ensure COVID-19 protocols were respected at the hospital, and supply information booklets.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic early in March, the NLC has set aside a R150-million relief fund to ease the impact of COVID-19. In this pilot project to combat the spread of the Coronavirus, the NLC is working through community non-governmental organisations to reach vulnerable communities.

Addressing the health care workers at All Saints Hospital, Eastern Cape NLC manager Mzikayise Mani has said besides the donation of PPE to hospitals they also have started distributing food parcels to the villages.

“We identified that our challenge is that the Coronavirus needs one to have a strong immune system and we are partnering with NPOs [non-profit organisations] and community organisations to change people’s lives,” says Mani.

He urged NPOs to take this opportunity very seriously to apply for funding during the national lockdown.

“Our battle against COVID-19 needs everyone to work together facing our enemy, which is Corona. “Our people at the forefront are nurses and we are happy that we are giving them weapons to face the enemy because what is difficult is to send a soldier to war without a weapon,” says Mani.

Glen Grey Hospital (EC)



EMalahleni local municipality manager Velile Makedama, left, Impendulo Foundation CEO Wendy Mpendulo, EC National Lotteries Commission manager Mzikayise Mani, eMalahleni mayor Nontombizanele Koni, MPL Mandlakazi Keleku, and former minister of sports Thokozile Xasa during the handover at Glen Grey Hospital.



The Glen Grey Hospital has been identified as one of the COVID-19 hotspots in the hard-hit province.

PPE donation a lifeline for hotspot hospital

Glen Grey feels full might of pandemic

Government officials are concerned as the number of COVID-19 cases increases daily in eMalahleni municipality in Lady Frere, Eastern Cape.

Glen Grey Hospital in Lady Frere, one of the oldest hospitals in the Eastern Cape, had more than 120 COVID-19 cases.

According to eMalahleni municipality mayor Non-

tombizanele Koni, the reason behind the spike in eMalahleni is because of residents’ ignorance and people’s insistence on attending gatherings like funerals and traditional ceremonies in large numbers. She pleaded with residents to refrain from such practises.

Koni says they are very pleased with the intervention by the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) and Impendulo Foundation to rescue the rural hospital.

On Monday July 20, the NLC

and Impendulo donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to the hospital. This included 20 000 face masks, 75 pairs of gumboots, 200 heavy-duty gloves, 20 high blood pressure machines and 399 sanitisers.

Glen Grey Hospital CEO Anga Sontamo says though the hospital is regarded as a COVID-19 hotspot, they were happy with the work of health workers.

“We are receiving a patient daily but we are happy [with] how nurses and doctors are handling the situation. The

majority of patients who were admitted here managed to recover. Another positive thing is that we only recorded one fatality of a health worker.”

Sontamo says the PPE donated was almost going to last until the end of the year. Eastern Cape NLC manager Mzikayise Mani says the pilot project at All Saints Hospital in Engcobo and Glen Grey Hospital is just the start. “We are going to visit a number of rural, disadvantaged hospitals in this province, working with NGOs.”

Silawa Drop-in Center (LP)

Centre extends its care to orphans and the elderly

The Silawa Drop-in Centre is a non-governmental organisation from Silawa village in Giyani, Limpopo. It started operating in 2007 and works with orphaned and vulnerable children.

However, their services extend to the entire community through their gardening projects and care for the elderly.

“Even though our initial focus was to care for children who are orphaned and vulnerable, we also identified other issues in the community, which include the elderly who live alone and have no one to take care of them,” says Mahleki Shisana, director of Silawa Drop-in Centre. “We conduct visits to these people and donate food parcels to them straight from our gardens.”

Studies have demonstrated that food security is at the core of people’s wellbeing. This is also illustrated in Dr Olusegun Samson Obadere’s study from the University of Venda.

“The reduction of hunger is one of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals that is widely seen as a useful measure for the evaluation of the progress of a country in terms of the wellbeing of its people,” shows the study.

Organisations such as the Silawa Drop-In Centre also recognise this need and try to help where they can. In a small way, the organisation empowers the community through its garden projects that provide nutritious, healthy and organic vegetables.

“Our gardens also help us sustain our organisation at



Silawa Drop-in Centre staff gather after a successful outreach programme in one of the villages in Limpopo.

Finding a link between hunger and wellbeing

times when we do not get funding. We sell our products and use the money to pay for our operations,” she said.

The organisation is grateful that they are receiving funding for the third time. They last received a grant from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) in 2018, which was a huge boost for the organisation.

“The COVID-19 grant came at the right time because we had no resources to carry on with our work during the lockdown.

“We managed to buy soap, sanitisers and food which we distributed to households in the village.

“We did this through door-to-door visits due to COVID-19 social-distancing restrictions.

We couldn’t allow people to gather at the centre for collections.”

She adds that they also gave each child an extra bottle of sanitiser to take home. Silawa employs eight people and has eight more volunteers who assist as and when they are needed. “We managed to provide stipends to our staff during the hard lockdown period.”

Phaphama Mzansi Foundation (LP)



Phaphama Mzansi Foundation members Judy Maluleke, left, Isaac Thema, Merriam Gaffane and a staffer. They continue to work with the commission.

Shot in the arm for fight against social ills

The Phaphama Mzansi Foundation in Polokwane would have been unable to achieve their vision if it wasn’t for the relief funding that they have received from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

The non-profit organisation’s (NPO) project manager, Isaac Thema, thanks the NLC for its support.

“On behalf of the Phaphama Mzansi Foundation, we thank you for supporting us. Your COVID-19 relief fund is greatly appreciated and has played an important role in our success. With your generous giving, we were able to provide stipends in order to sustain the livelihood for our staff and also procure personal protective equipment,” says Thema.

The Limpopo-based NPO looks forward to continuing to work with the NLC.

The organisation was formed in 2017 by 665 unemployed social auxiliary workers in the province. It is aimed at fighting social ills and addressing poverty and unemployment.

“The organisation is geared to develop and implement prevention programmes on substance abuse and gender-based violence. These programmes are being implemented by qualified social workers and social auxiliary workers through campaigns, social, print and electronic media.”

The partnership between the commission and the organisation was formed three years ago.

“Four staff members are currently the beneficiaries of the COVID-19 relief funding. The funds assisted them to pay for transportation to work and to assist with their basic needs.

“The funds will sustain the four staff members at least for the period of 12 months,” he says.

Due to the novel Coronavirus global pandemic, the organisation had to lay off part-time field workers because of a lack of funds.

Emmanuel Educare (WC)

Ensuring the safety, education of children

Principal feeds community too

In 2012, Johanna Solomon quit her job as an assistant at a creche to establish her own, out of concern for the fact that her community in Touws River in the Western Cape did not have an early childhood development institution.

Kids were roaming around without supervision and guidance in the small railway town, which is set on the fringes of the Klein Karoo and is sandwiched between the Langeberg and the Outeniqua mountains.

At the beginning Solomon, who is the principal of Emmanuel Educare, cared for only 20 kids. The creche has since grown and is catering for 53 children, with three staff members and volunteers. She asked for help from community



Johanna Solomon

members and built a shack in the backyard of her house in order to accommodate the children and ensure their safety.

With the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19, Solomon and staff members are cooking three times a week to feed 300 people in the community, including the kids who

attend her creche.

Solomon has thanked the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) for the help it has extended to her creche.

“In 2017, I applied for funding from the NLC and they helped us in a big way. They have a big heart to help us in need and when we are needy, from operational costs up to our stipends. We want to thank the NLC very much for their caring for us. Our prayers go out to everyone involved at the NLC,” says Solomon.

Solomon says the development of children was important for them, their safety and education coming first for them, adding that her creche takes part in sporting activities in order to ensure that the kids are preoccupied with something positive and hoped they would grow up to be productive adults.

“Our mission is to provide

food, clean water and a safe place for our children. We are learning through play. Our vision in this life is to put people and their children first and then us.”

The outbreak of the Coronavirus has seen the closure of many early childhood development centres. Solomon says since the closure of the creche due to COVID-19 regulations, she and her colleagues are now feeding the community.

Her organisation, which provides three meals a day to the kids, is now in need and has a monthly municipal bill of R1 600, owes R500 for electricity, an insurance bill of R400, and needs R5 000 for food and R600 for transport.

To commemorate global icon Nelson Mandela, Solomon and her team used 67 minutes to cook for 350 people in their community – all thanks to the NLC.

Expectra Health Solutions (KZN)

More than 20 patients tested, scores screened

Cuban-trained medical doctor Sanele Madela has always had a passion for medicine and uplifting the health and wellbeing of communities around him. To this end, in 2011 he founded Expectra Health Solutions (EHS), a non-profit organisation focusing on primary healthcare.

The core function of EHS is to manage and structure community-based health projects. Now EHS has entered the ring in the fight against COVID-19, ramping up testing in KwaZulu-Natal, thanks largely to the funding it has received from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

Three weeks into the project, EHS has already tested more than 20 patients and screened more than 70 people.

Madela says: "It's difficult to sustain and retain skills within the NGO/NPC [non-governmental organisation/non-profit company] sector because funding is not always secure, but we thank the NLC for its continued support.

"It is now possible to increase COVID-19 testing, partnering with the Department of Health. The funding from the NLC has also enabled EHS to partner with private laboratories to shorten results turnaround.

"With unemployment rising in South Africa, the funding has also opened new job opportunities, specifically in the rural



Dr Sanele Madela has chosen to join the fight against COVID-19, with the help of the NLC.

Cuban-trained doctor steps into COVID-19 ring

area where the project is being implemented. The provision of personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers is also reinforced through this funding."

Madela is accredited to train community caregivers to work

in and profile the community. EHS employs more than 50 community health workers.

Madela says testing is important to the COVID-19 strategy in South Africa, and that he is grateful that the NLC saw fit to fund the testing drive.

"Once a person tests positive, they can isolate and the risk of further onward transmission from that person can be reduced. Earlier testing al-

so makes it more likely that individuals with COVID-19 will receive the healthcare services they need in time should they become seriously ill."

EHS, which has two divisions, has operated in the National Health Insurance pilot districts of Umzinyathi and Umgungundlovu in KwaZulu-Natal.

Madela concludes: "For me as a doctor, seeing people – no matter how poor – gain access to healthcare was the most important thing that has happened in my life. No one should die just because she doesn't have access to healthcare."



No one should die just because she doesn't have access to health care

Cape Town Minstrel Festival (CT)

Festival upholds Cape cultural heritage

Funds don't only keep music playing

The Cape Town Minstrel Festival explodes onto the streets of Cape Town in a flurry of colour, song and dance every year on January 2.

The festival, also referred to as Tweede Nuwe Jaar, which means Second New Year, forms an integral part of Cape Town culture and is steeped in history and tradition, dating back to the time of slavery in South Africa.

Thousands of costumed, banjo-picking musicians and dancers, their faces painted white, as opposed to the original black-painted faces of the visiting minstrels, parade and march through the streets, followed by a series of dance, singing and costume competitions at Green Point Stadium.

The event is organised by the Cape Town Minstrel Carnival Association (CTMCA) and was established in 1996. The CTMCA initially started with a membership of approximately 2 000 people, but now has escalated to

over 60 000 members of all ages and genders with the majority being youth.

Former president Nelson Mandela was the first president of the country to open the Carnival at Green Point in 1996. The CTMCA is recognised as the oldest cultural organisation in the Western Cape.

Under apartheid, it was called the Coon Carnival by Capetonians, but local authorities have since renamed the festival the Cape Town Minstrel Carnival as the term coon is racist and derogatory.

Like all major events, the carnival costs a lot of money to keep going year in and year out. The CTMCA is one of the beneficiaries of funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC). The CTMCA has also received COVID-19 relief funds from the NLC.

Waleed Brown, a director at the CTMCA, says there are always challenges facing the carnival, mostly financial, but somehow this tradition has survived, and that without funding from organisations such as the



Participants in the Cape Town Minstrel Festival erupt in a colourful display of song and dance that is the hallmark of the annual festival.

NLC, it would nearly be impossible to keep its activities going.

Explains Brown: "The main objectives of the organisation are to promote, co-ordinate and market all minstrel activities. We also have community-based food programmes or feeding schemes in all areas on the Cape Flats.

"It is very important to us to uphold our cultural heritage.

"The NLC funding was important to ensure the continuation of minstrels and the self-sustainability of the organisation. Culture, heritage and history are always worth funding.

"And our hope is that the NLC and other well-meaning entities continue to fund this large piece of our country's heritage," concludes Brown.

Maangani Community Crèche (LP)

'I thank the Lord for good work of the Lotto'

Agnes Mabada, the principal of Maangani Community Crèche, is excited to talk about the work that the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has enabled them to do. The crèche is based in the village of Maangani in Venda and caters for 60 children.

"I'm speaking with such excitement because the Lotto has done big things for our community," she says gleefully. "The COVID-19 grant is not the first we are receiving from the Lotto."

The crèche first received funding from the NLC in 2016 to erect a building.

Mabada explains: When I went to submit my application, there were thousands of hopeful organisations who wanted to build the early childhood development structure, but we were the only ones awarded in the Vhembe district.

"When I think about where I come from, I want to cry. We moved from a one-room structure that was donated by the community and a shack which we used for storage, to a big building with a capacity of 271."

She said the building has been a blessing, not only to the



The community also uses the venue to host different events.

children but to the community as a whole.

"The structure is a gift that never stops giving. We are grateful because the community has gained through this project. Many people got jobs, we had only three permanent staff members but now we have five and we also provide for volunteers whom we thank for their service through stipends."

The crèche rents out the hall to the community to host meetings, celebratory events such as birthdays and weddings.

She narrates a funny story where she was afraid to pick up phone calls, and one of them was from the NLC to inform her about their successful application. "I was afraid to pick up the phone because, at the time, I owed the shop around the corner. I had taken stuff on credit and was unable to pay.

"That's how bad our situation was. The grant we received from the NLC for COVID-19 was little, yet, it enabled the staff to provide for their families during the lockdown. I thank the Lord every minute and every hour for the National Lotteries because of good work they do for communities," she concludes.

Jireh Community Projects (WC)

Flattening the curve of a different kind

New narrative for kids in Cape Flats

The Jireh Community Projects, based in Mitchells Plain in the Western Cape, has become a beacon of hope on the Cape Flats.

The community is battered by social ills including drug abuse, alcoholism, crime (in particular gang wars), a high rate of school dropouts and unemployment among the youth.

The project, which was started in 1989, has an early childhood development centre (ECD) that is the flagship of its operations. Jireh has had more than 7 000 children come through its ECD. The centre caters for children from 14 months to six years.

Janice Erasmus, who leads the organisation, says her community was benefitting from the project in that it provides a safe, welcoming learning environment in all areas of child growth and development. The centre is run by an all-women team of 22 caring for the kids.

“Teachers of the children benefit from being employed and further benefitting from

improved learning methods and access to proper, quality equipment, enabling them to better serve the children and families. Parents and guardians of children obtain indirect benefit from activities to be undertaken, knowing and having the confidence that their children are being cared for and taught to enable them to be ready to tackle school with a better base and level of preparation,” she says.

“Grandparents, families and the broader community also obtain indirect benefit as children are taught and trained to

respect their parents and relatives, and are prepared for their school years, so that they have a willingness to learn, and are more inspired to run the course of their schooling, minimising the drain on their parents in the long term, and in so doing



Janice Erasmus



We appreciate the fact that the NLC has always acknowledged our sector



Jireh Community Projects is a ray of hope in a Cape Flats community beset by social ills including gang wars, drug abuse and unemployment.

creating self-sustaining communities,” she adds.

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) provided the centre with funding for the running costs and a container classroom, which helped the organisation to expand.

Erasmus says they appreciated the help they received from the NLC.

She explains: “We appreciate the fact that the NLC has always acknowledged our sector when it has always been overlooked and forgotten. We appreciate all their support and financial assistance during tough times and know that our partnership will continue in the near future, especially as we try and recover from COVID-19 and adjust to a



The children thrive in a safe, welcoming learning environment that caters for all areas of their growth and development.

new normal in the sector.”

She says a growing body of international evidence shows that appropriate investment in

early childhood development could positively impact on national health, education and socio-economic outcomes.

APD Benede Oranje (NC)

Hoft's spirit of activism touches the disabled people

NLC empowers, shines a ray of light

About 26 years ago an activist, Monica Gerhard, established the APD Benede Oranje, an organisation that takes care of people living with disabilities.

For the APD, people with disabilities are not disabled, but rather have certain disabilities. They are normal people who need to be treated with respect and accorded dignity.

The organisation, based in Upington in the Northern Cape, is on a mission to ensure that persons with disabilities reach their full potential in life.

Elmarie Hoft, area director of Benede Oranje, says the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has been playing a central role in supporting the organisation to empower people living with dis-



The organisation has taken to heart the interests of people living with disability.

abilities in the Northern Cape.

Over 450 people and their families have benefitted from the social support that the APD is offering in the communities of Lesedene, Rietfontein, Upington, Kenhardt, Augrabies, Daniëlskuil and Postmasburg, which represent six municipalities in the province.

The APD has 65 children in alternative care and 12 peo-

ple with different disabilities who are earning an additional income at its protective workshop, where they are exposed to entrepreneurship.

The organisation also advocates for people with disabilities to get access to justice, grants, buildings, education and transport, among others.

Hoft explains: “APD Benede Oranje is thankful beyond

description on how we have benefitted from the NLC funding over the past few years. It is impossible to elaborate on every bit, but to start off, through NLC funding it was possible to buy our own premises and renovate the building.

“We put up a fence, electrified it and even improved our security by adding more closed-circuit cameras and security lights.”

She continues: “The bridge over the canal was secured with safety rails so that the entrance could be made more accessible for our persons with disabilities on foot and on wheelchairs.”

The NLC also provided funding for APD to buy two vehicles that are being used by social workers to visit the beneficiaries. The commission also gave the organisation relief funding for COVID-19.

The workshop members were also given funds by the NLC for materials to expand their arts and craft skills. The funding made it possible for the APD to put their products on the market.

The organisation also hosts a weekly radio show to inform communities about different aspects of disabilities. It also visits schools to teach pupils how to interact with children who have different forms of disability.