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Mada Siebert
Business Manager
Sean Meredith
Accountant
Xoliswa Payiya
Office Administrator & Fundraising Co-ordinator
Mfundo Zeka
Community Development Co-ordinator
Noluthando Ntimande
Community Development Co-ordinator

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Mbali Thubisi (Vice Chair)
Susan Crewe
Noah Fischel
Priscilla Higham
Andre Titus

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get involved - 2018-2019 annual report -
vision

All orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) benefit from holistic and integrated systems of care in their communities, enabling them to grow, learn, access opportunities and make a positive contribution to society.

mission

African Solutions to African Problems (ASAP) identifies women providing care for orphans and vulnerable children in under resourced rural areas of South Africa. ASAP works with the women to develop their personal and organisational capacities to be able to relieve the social, psychological and economic effects of the HIV pandemic on the children and their communities.
Dear Friends and Supporters

“Africa is renowned for its beauty, its natural heritage and prolific resources – but equally, the image of its suffering children haunts the conscience of our Continent and the world”. Madiba (2008).

For African Solution to African Problems (ASAP), 2018 has been a notable year. The momentum of the foundation is evident, as our work in the small villages around Matatiele on the border of KZN and the Eastern Cape progresses and extend to new villages where there are children in need. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, supporters, stakeholders, both external and internal, I am delighted to share with you some of our achievements.

Our work is designed to benefit orphans and vulnerable children from holistic and integrated systems of care in their communities, enabling them to grow, learn, access opportunities and make a positive contribution to society. This would not be achieved without a strong, committed and dedicated implementation team. The field team, recently strengthened by the appointment of Linet Dube as program director, is doing transformative work in the communities with the Assets Based Community Development model.

At the beginning of the year I travelled to the field in Matatiele, to have direct experience of the work that we do and to meet and learn from the field team. I visited each CBO and met with the carers and the OVC. Seeing how each program directly impacts the children, improving their health and livelihood, supporting their physiological growth and upskilling their caregivers affirmed the value of ASAP’s interventions and in-depth community development process.

As an organisation we have not shied away from investing in the up-skilling of our staff to build internal competencies. This has resulted in not only increasing employee motivation, but also in dramatic cost savings from consultant and external service providers fees. The increased quality of support that our field team can offer as hands-on development practitioners, has led to increased ownership, assertiveness and agency within the Community Based Organisations (CBOs). This, in turn, plays out in better care of the OVC and strengthens their sustainability.

Our Youth program is enjoying new vitality in the hands of our young Community Development Coordinators, Noluthando and Mfundo, who are from nearby rural villages and passionate about affecting positive change at community level. The food gardens continue to grow and provide nutrients much needed by the developing OVC that come to the centres for daily meals. I am also pleased to inform you that in this year the building of a drop-in centre for the Reahasetjaba CBO was completed after five years operating in borrowed spaces. This has brought such pride and joy to the CBO and community.
It is with this in mind that we continuously strive to not only ensure prudence in managing donor funding but commit to good governance, oversight and accountability to all our stakeholders. Our board of trustees has been strengthened with additional South African trustees who bring their experience in socio economic development, working with government and financial expertise. Through prudence in handling fiscal matters, we ensure that 77% of all funds received is used directly in the programs to benefit the children and women. We have managed to keep our overheads minimal through strategic planning, upskilling staff and office sharing in Cape Town.

I had the great honour of representing ASAP at the bi-annual London Fundraiser Lunch and meeting many of ASAPS oldest and staunchest supporters. The event was a fantastic success - great minds and hearts coming together for a greater purpose, touching real lives in the most significant way. A big thank you goes out to the organizing team for the 2018 Lunch, and to each and every individual that pledged their funds, making our work and a brighter future for vulnerable children, possible.

I would like to thank the donors who have continued to support us financially, and also those who have taken time to come out to visit the CBOs in Matabele and affirmed confidence in our organisation’s capabilities to uplift these communities. We welcome and appreciate all of our new donors and supporters and assure you continued transparency in all our operations.

I thank our outgoing Board Chairperson, Sue Cewe, for her dedication to the cause and strong guidance; and to all my fellow board members for their unwavering commitment and passion for community development around the plight of children and vulnerable members of our communities.

The team out in the field, doing the day to day work of facilitating development processes and ensuring emergency relief where needed, deserve a special recognition, for devoting their careers to bringing about positive change in one of the most challenging environments. They are backed by a strong administrative team that provide the necessary support with equal dedication.

It is true that there are approximately 3.7 million orphans in South Africa, but what is comforting is seeing a growing number of individuals who do not look away, but commit to assist the plight of vulnerable children and women.

Patricia Dlamini, Chair of the Board of ASAP
South Africa has the biggest HIV epidemic in the world. Kwazulu Natal province is the hardest hit area, with more than a quarter of the nation’s HIV positive population. ASAP works here in the remote areas near Matatiele, where the social, economic and psychological devastation still causes enormous suffering. A large portion of the productive population has died or is ill, and the area lacks economic opportunity for those still able. Food insecurity, and therefore malnutrition, is rife. Lack of access to basic healthcare and social services are common, especially in families challenged by extremely remote location and poor levels of education. Most villages still have no electricity, indoor plumbing or ablutions, running water or tarred roads. Many youths are not aware of opportunities for tertiary education and feel despondent about the future. Amidst all of this, the toughest battle for survival is fought by the orphans and vulnerable children, often living with ageing grandmothers or in child-headed households.

South Africa

7.52 million people living with HIV
19% adult HIV prevalence
270,000 new HIV infections
110,000 AIDS-related deaths
56% adults on antiretroviral treatment
55% children on antiretroviral treatment

Source: UNAIDS Data 2017 & STATSSA 2018
At the heart of ASAP’s community development work lies the needs of the vulnerable child. With their communities extremely challenged for resources and by difficult conditions in the remote areas, the children’s basic human rights often suffer. On community entry, ASAP facilitates a baseline evaluation of the children’s basic needs and ensure that these are met through direct intervention. This process is initially prioritised and then continues to run alongside the much slower, in-depth developmental process whereby the communities develop the skills and competencies to ensure they can care for their OVC directly and indefinitely.

ASAP’s direct interventions for 688 OVC this year included:

- 45,631 plates of nutritious food served to 308 OVC
- 94 households assessed to determine the conditions and basic needs of the OVC
- 716 OVC home visits conducted by CBOs carers
- 125 referrals of OVC to the clinic and hospital for medical care
- 125 blankets and 126 Mattresses supplied to OVC for basic shelter needs
- 142 School uniforms and 67 pairs of shoes provided to help OVC attend school
- Therapeutic Art Workshops attended by 309 OVC who loved every minute

ASAP has identified a clear need for increased psychosocial support for OVC traumatised by loss of a parent and other adverse childhood events. This is a program area that will be strengthened in the coming year.
If we can say that the children’s needs are at the heart of our work, then the Community Development processes strengthen the arms. Our work is to empower proactive community members to become change agents for child development in their villages and to this end we continued our in-depth ABCD (Assets Based Community Development) process with 41 CBO members in the four villages.

In particular, we find the Asset Inventory session pivotal for many. When invited to consider the human asset (head, head and heart) and coming into awareness of their existing skillset, both joy and sadness arise. Joy at realizing their strengths, and sadness that they had gone so long without appreciating what they had. Realising that a financial asset was of no use until it was converted to the other assets was a real light bulb moment.

Additional to our weekly facilitation visits, the following took place:

- Accredited Home-Based Care training for Silukhanyo and Sinikithemba, the two CBO centres that work directly with patients in their villages, with oral examination for those who lack literacy skills
- Distribution of first aid kits
- HIV/AIDS and TB Literacy Awareness training with rape and rape response awareness
- Project management training

“We are honoured and humbled to have met these amazing, dedicated women who are working so tirelessly to build a better future for their communities. It is refreshing to meet people who are not sitting around asking what their country can do for them but people who are using the little they have to do something for their country. With a mind-set like that we can build a better South Africa.”

Bongi Ndakisa
Kwenzokile Community Development Foundation Facilitator
Eight women of Nonqubela CBO were introduced to permaculture for the first time in May 2018. It was a practical and very well detailed training facilitated by Boniswa Ngule, a Director of Hlomelikusasa (a former CBO partner of ASAP). Aching bodies and stiff muscles aside, the women of Nonqubela felt that their great achievement was to finally understand how using a vegetable bed is practical for growing food. They planted vegetables, medicinal plants and fruit trees in their garden.

The other 33 women from the other partner CBOs had a follow up permaculture training and planted vegetables like spinach, cabbage, carrots, beetroot, tump as well as medicinal plants.

The extreme climate in this area is a challenge for our growers, and ASAP will be working with the CBOs in the coming year to find creative solutions that will ensure the nutrients get to the children - despite any adverse weather!
The Youth Development program was recently rejuvenated by ASAP’s dynamic Community Development Coordinators with a fresh vision: Resilient communities where the youth are change drivers, modeling positive behaviour and running initiatives that practically benefit the communities and broaden their world view.

The two-year program addresses the complex developmental needs of village youth who are susceptible to opportunistic crime, teenage pregnancies and school drop-out. It promotes access to formal and informal education, provides the needed space and guidance for personal and communal growth, promotes skills development linked to gathering resources for new initiatives and activities, and facilitates the development of useful life skills and leadership qualities.

144 Youth regularly attended activities this year, with the career guidance workshops resulting in ten students now attending their first year of tertiary education, while youth from three of the CBOs planned, organised and hosted one-day community engagement events in their villages. Sinikithemba’s youth hosted an electricity education and awareness day in anticipation of their village joining the grid, while Realhostajoba and Nonkqubela celebrated Heritage Day with fantastic attendance by the whole Nonkqubela community, including the elders.

Based on their participation, commitment and leadership potential, 24 young adults were selected to attended the end of year camp in Underberg, with a packed program focusing on developing self-awareness, community mapping and trust building. Diverse activities like drama, music, dance and a festival of poetry gave every participant the opportunity to come into their own.

“I was demotivated about education but after the support that I received I saw a purpose in life. The challenges that you go through are the ones that make you take the wrong path but if you have a support you can defeat them. Now I feel happy and motivated.”

Anonymous youth in ASAP’s Youth Program
Drop-in centres are built by ASAP in partnership with CBO management as safe spaces for vulnerable children to receive nutritious food, care, counselling and opportunities to play on indoor and outdoor play equipment. The centres also provide space for community activities and training events. Drop-in centres have food gardens maintained by CBO members and ASAP provide boreholes and pumps if needed.

It is well known that CBOs operate optimally, and are more sustainable, if they work from a designated space. Reahasetjaba CBO, having proven their capacity and commitment, secured land from the village chief, registered it with the Dept Land Affairs, selected an experienced local builder and project manager, and received quotations on materials. With funds from the Monument Trust, ASAP could assist with building plans and quantity survey, as well as overseeing all the necessary logistics to bring the project to successful completion.

The building has a kitchen, a furnished dining hall for the children that is also used as a workshop and training area, an office and a store room. The dining hall has a small library shelf that will be furnished with books donated by the Matatiele Old Aged Home. On Mandela Day, ASAP staff will spend the day painting the building with CBO members and the local community as their 67 minutes of community service in honour of Madiba.

reahasetjaba drop-in centre
INCOME
Donation Income
Interest Received
TOTAL INCOME
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward from previous year

COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS
Fundraising & Publicity
UK Charity Fee
US Charity Fee
TOTAL COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE
Programs
Management & Administration
TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

ASSETS
Fixed assets
Investments
Cash
Other Receivables
TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES
Accrual Expenses
TOTAL LIABILITIES

US & UK currency has been converted at: $1 = R13.54507375 & £1 = R17.84151 (average rate for the year)

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There is no minimum donation amount - every penny helps!

Material support is always welcome. We accept and appreciate art supplies, carpets, sewing supplies, laptops/computers, water tanks, garden implements and seedlings/trees, stationery, blankets and warm Winter clothing (for children and adults).

Voluntary internships at our Cape Town head office and volunteer opportunities to work in the field for a minimum of six months (where Xhosa and Sotho speakers are at an advantage) are available.

Please email info@africansolutions.org to get involved.

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