AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022
Imagine traveling to the rural villages in the Eastern Cape for the first time, just hours and hours on awful dirt roads through South Africa’s poorest municipality. A sense of overwhelm and despondency can easily overtake you, at the unbelievable poverty and isolation - it’s no surprise that so little government or other services reach there.

But then, you meet the orphans and vulnerable children in one such village, with a group of women called Sinikithemba, which means ‘We Give Hope’, and the children sing so sweetly and with such joy at the meals the women are cooking for them.

This group of women had come together to tackle the myriad of problems facing their village. With ASAP’s support, they have been ensuring the basic needs and human rights of almost 600 children, providing home based care for their ill, and growing an amazing food garden to fight hunger, all while learning to run an organisation and raise funds.

During covid, one of these amazing women died at the hands of her intimate partner. ASAP provided the group with counseling, and they started recognising the extent of gender based violence (GBV) in their village, something that had been almost invisible because it was so entrenched in the culture.

The women decided they wanted change. ASAP assisted them with skills training, and they designed a program and raised funds to implement it - raising awareness and bringing legal clinics to their village.

ASAP also trained them to screen for signs of trauma in children, and they asked us to assist a little nine-year old girl who had suddenly stopped playing with her friends. ASAP’s counselor learnt from her that her uncle living next door had raped her and supported her with therapy and assistance right through the justice processes, which included harassing the police until the perpetrator was arrested.

A few months later the women called us to say something was once again amiss with the little girl, and we learnt that the uncle had simply been released, without any notice, and was living right back next door again. So we went back to the police and would not relent, until he was rearrested and finally sentenced.

That little girl now plays with her friends again, and has the support she needs to recover and thrive. And everyone in her village now know a few important things. They know what GBV is, they know that it will no longer be tolerated, and they know that there is a place of hope, of safety and support in their village where they can go when a woman or child needs help.

Thank you to all ASAP’s supporters for making such a difference in the world possible.
MEET THE ASAP TEAMS

The South African Team

Mada Siebert
Chief Executive

Linet Dube
Program Director

Mfundo Zeka
Community Development Coordinator

Noluthando Nzimande
Community Development Coordinator

Mbalelnle Nkosi
Psychosocial Support Officer

Xoliswa Payiya
Office Administrator & Fundraising Coordinator

Ansa Rodenberg
Bookkeeper

The Board of Trustees

Patricia Dlamini
Chairperson

Mbali Thubisi
Vice-Chairperson

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Treasurer

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Trustee

Sam Hoffman
Trustee

Zita Lloyd
Trustee

S’bo Vilakazi
Trustee

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Founder and Director Emeritus

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Jane Ormsby Gore
Jasmine Guinness
Jose Fonseca
Lynne Franks
Maia Norman
Rosie Bartlett
Susan Crewe
Priscilla Higham
Zita Lloyd
**Our Vision**

Thriving rural communities where empowered community members, particularly women and youth, contribute to community resilience and where all children develop optimally.

**Our Mission**

Our work is to connect rural community members, particularly women and youth, to their own power to identify challenges and create positive change towards poverty alleviation in their communities.

**Our Objectives**

**Orphans & Vulnerable Children & Youth** - Ensuring rural orphan and vulnerable children access their basic needs like adequate nutrition and shelter, access to schooling and healthcare as well as psychosocial support to enable them to heal from trauma and ultimately be equipped to break the poverty cycle.

**Community Development** - Helping groups of proactive, rural women access the skills and resources needed to improve food security and livelihoods, Gender Based Violence (GBV) related safety and child development in their communities. We achieve this through providing skills training and coaching them in personal development, community development, GBV programmes, food garden development, financial literacy training, horizontal learning and developing networks of support.

**Food Security & Livelihoods** - Reducing food insecurity and increasing economic opportunity through productive community food gardens in rural villages, with social enterprise development and financial literacy training for young agri-entrepreneurs.

ASAP contributes directly to the above UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs)
It is with heartfelt gratitude that I present to you the annual performance report card of African Solutions to African Problems (ASAP) for the 2021/22 financial year. Another year marked by extraordinary challenges and achievements, as the organisation navigated the second year of the coronavirus pandemic in one of South Africa’s most affected areas.

REVIEW AND REALIGN
During the year under review, many like myself have had to put up a strong face, whilst the uncertainty around the perpetually mutating coronavirus hovered over our heads. This made it difficult to even contemplate long terms plans; thus we were content to be blessed with yet another day to live and serve. True to the saying that, in each dark cloud there is a silver lining, so do challenges present opportunities. As we grappled with the new normal and limited mobility, the staff and Board of ASAP spent time engaging stakeholders firstly to align and also evaluate the impact that our interventions have made in the communities that we serve. This brought about the review and development of our strategic plan for the next 5 years. The strategy gives us the building blocks to support ASAP’s Vision. I am pleased to mention that the team has started implementing our 2021-2025 strategic plan.

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS
We make it a point that trustees make a trip to the field at least once a year, so as to motivate the field team, engage stakeholders in the communities and also to accompany donors and prospective donors who wish to gather first hand experience of the IMPACT ASAP programmes have in the communities. The year under review was no different; in December 2021, accompanied by the CE, Mada, I hosted a potential donor on a week-long field trip and I look forward to welcoming them into our donor stable in the near future.

FUNDRAISING AND COLLABORATION
At the time of writing this foreword, we are planning our biennial London Fundraising event, a much anticipated event in our calendar. At the heart of the excitement is the opportunity that this event affords us; to stand in front of our friends and supporters based in the UK, showcasing the tangible impact of their generosity. Through captured moments, we share the stories and smiles as narrated directly by the beneficiaries. The London Luncheon 2022 will be no different...
as we look to deepen existing connections and meet new supporters.

One of the wishes of our founder, Priscilla, was that ASAP increases its local donor base (South Africa), and we are pleased to report that the team is achieving this goal. In the financial year under review we welcomed several new local donors and partners such as the Ackermans PnP Foundation, National Development Agency and DG Murray Trust.

ENHANCED GOVERNANCE
In the year under review, the board welcomed two new Trustees; Sam Hoffman as Trustee and principal of the US entity and Zita Lloyd as UK trustee focused on UK Fundraising. The addition of the new Trustees aims to bolster governance & oversight across all jurisdictions in which the ASAP entity is registered, and strength fundraised in these regions.

Again, this year the organization attained a clean and unqualified independent audit; for this we pride ourselves as a good steward of the mandate and resources we are entrusted with. It remains my priority to ensure that ASAP handles the resources available with frugality, transparency, and accountability at all times.

APPRECIATION
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board which has provided exemplary oversight and leadership to the organization. The Board has worked tirelessly and offered the required support to management to ensure that ASAP achieves its stated objectives. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our donors, sponsors and supporters for the continued and unrelenting support despite fiscal constraints.

A special note of gratitude to Priscilla Higham, the Founder and Director Emeritus ASAP – “Your example and spirit will forever lead the way” You may not be directly involved with the operations now but remain my guiding light as I carry out my fiduciary duty as the Chairperson of the Board Trustees.

To the ASAP team led by Mada, thank you for carrying out your role with due diligence.
As the Covid-19 pandemic entered its second year, we were continually confronted by the many challenges imposed through the hard lockdowns in our country. Our team continued to work relentlessly, straight through all levels of lockdown, to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene products to vulnerable people in the rural communities, whilst delivering as much as possible of our normal programme activities. Where we could not deliver directly, we worked with Community Based Organisations (CBO) to ensure that all vulnerable children had household visits to ensure their basic needs were being met.

We were extremely grateful that none of our field staff fell ill. Aside from strict hygiene protocols and immune boosting supplements, psychosocial self-care was incredibly important. Individuals were dealing with burnout as well as the emotional impact of covid deaths in the villages and in their personal circles. The DG Murray Trust kindly funded a psychosocial support workshop for our frontline workers, followed by individual counseling sessions as needed. We designed the workshop to benefit our staff personally, as well as enable them to incorporate a trauma-informed approach in their work in the communities. Our psychosocial support officer then took the workshop out into the field to share with the caregivers at the CBOs, followed up with group and individual counseling sessions.

Whilst we continued our services in somewhat limited capacity, this year was also a time to orient and prepare for the work that would follow in the aftermath of the pandemic. With our new five year strategic plan as guide, our highly skilled and motivated team was ready to grow our reach and support a much larger beneficiary base. ASAP’s approach has always been one of listening and supporting, rather than assuming and directing. Therefore, the team took to many, many rutted roads to attend imbizos (meetings) as the first step in exploring new partnerships. We met with members and tribal leaders of our most vulnerable communities in the poorest wards of South Africa’s poorest municipality.
ASAP’s new strategic focus on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and food security was reaffirmed as the reports of violence against vulnerable persons and increased hunger due to job losses, retrenchment and loss of breadwinners poured in. We were also alarmed to learn of the high number of adults and children who do not have birth certificates and identity documents and as result cannot access their rights.

Two community based organisations focused on child development also emerged as potential long term partners for ASAP’s community development model and they will be formally on-boarded in the coming months.

ASAP also joined the Greenlight Movement this year, and started incorporating the Poverty Stoplight Tool. This Monitoring and Evaluation tool will enable us to report clearly on what may well be the toughest questions in development: what is the measurable impact are we making on multidimensional poverty? As both metric and methodology, the tool defines what it means “not to be poor” through asking 52 questions across 6 dimensions of poverty: Income & Employment, Health & Environment, Housing & Infrastructure, Education & Culture, Organization & Participation, Interiority & Motivation.

Our trained facilitators will help beneficiaries understand their poverty levels in the simplest terms in order to identify ‘red’ areas and develop strategies to transform them into green.

I am grateful for our tight-knit, driven team and a very low staff turnover. The wonderful, dynamic Zoleka Sauli left us this year to manage her Community Based Organization full time. She is the only staff member to leave in the past three years, and we are glad to know she will continue to use the skills gained at ASAP and stay in close touch with the team. We welcomed Mbalenhle Nkosi, a qualified Social Worker, as our new Psychosocial Support Officer who hit the ground running with a large GBV caseload and quickly proved her mettle.

We look forward to developing eight large community food gardens as well as double the number of CBOs we support in the coming months. It will be a year of immense growth as we support many more rural change makers to create their new normal and bring much needed change to their lives and their communities.
WHERE WE WORK

our area of impact

Click on the map above for an interactive Google Earth exploration.
The rural villages in which we work have one of the highest HIV prevalence in the world, (StatsSA), and a difficult mix of challenges that promote extreme vulnerability: thousands of children are orphaned by HIV and Covid, impoverished households are often headed by aging grandmothers, most able adults have left to look for work and whole communities are multidimensionally poor and severely challenged in caring for the large number of children in need.

Due to the remote locations, road infrastructure challenges, limiting access and transport costs, accessing education, healthcare and fresh food is expensive. Money from wages and casual labour, trickling in from family members who migrate in search of economic opportunity, has been a lifeline to many but has declined with the rise in unemployment in the last two years.

**Why we do it**

**THE CHALLENGE**

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**1.9 million**

of 3 million children in the Eastern Cape regularly go hungry and many miss school because of hunger and shame

**2.8 million**

orphans in South Africa and 134,000+ more orphaned by Covid by Oct 2020

**76%**

of households do not have access to nutritious food

**8.45 million**

HIV positive (highest number in the world)

**79%**

of children are classified as “multidimensionally poor”, meaning every aspect of their lives is affected by poverty and deprivation (StatsSA, 2020)

**1 in 5**

young persons are HIV positive
Orphans & Vulnerable Children & Youth Development

ASAP is committed to ensuring the basic needs and rights of rural orphans and vulnerable children are met, and that each one can heal, develop and thrive. The Covid 19 pandemic altered the standard delivery of the program as our time spent interacting with the children at the Drop-in Centres was greatly reduced. The role of the CBO caregivers was highlighted even more during these trying times as they continued to visit the children at their homes for assessments and follow-up support. The drop-in centres continued to provide nutrition to the OVC and assistance with homework, and ASAP hosted therapeutic art and youth workshops there. During the year, the following activities took place:

- **297+** OVC at 2 drop centres, being cared for by 21 caregivers
- **17780** plates of nutritious food served (Over 10 000 more than in the previous year)
- **285** home visits conducted to establish needs of OVC
- **158** referrals to government institutions
- **10** children offered psychosocial support
- **3** children received birth certificates
- **38** mattresses and blankets were distributed to keep the OVC warm in the cold winters of Matatiele
- **61** pairs of school shoes and 91 school uniforms provided to OVC in need
- **198** OVC and youth received Christmas presents. The smiles on their faces spoke of the joy they felt inside.
- **101** OVC aged between 6 and 12 years attended the Therapeutic art workshop during school holidays
- **3** adults received ID documents
- **6** youth participated in the career guidance workshop and 5 applied to tertiary institutions

The year’s achievements

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Linet Dube
**Community Development**

In recognition of the fact that resilient communities can care well for its children, ASAP works with community groups, capacitating them to tackle their most pressing challenges and provide care for their most vulnerable community members, especially the orphans and vulnerable children and victims of GBV.

Due to the toll that Covid-19 posed on the caregivers, ASAP provided training and workshops to 21 caregivers that helped them cope and tackle social issues that arose due to the pandemic. As violence against vulnerable persons emerged as a strong theme, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) were invited to sensitize the groups on GBV, with a three-day follow-on workshop at both CBOs. Sinikithemba CBO then launched GBV as a programme in their community and they held awareness campaigns and saw a dramatic increase in GBV reporting.

Psychosocial Support workshops were provided to the caregivers and were also followed up with group and individual sessions. This assisted the women to deal with their own trauma and grief, equipping them with tools to care for themselves and the children in a holistic way.

Workshops on Organisational development and grant writing by our Office Administrator and Community Development Coordinator assisted the CBOs with filing and administration, keeping their cash books up to date, compiling policies and the day to day running of the CBOs. Now that both CBOs are managing multiple grants, these skills are indispensable. Apart from ASAP, they continue managing other funders like Hlanganisa, FoodFoward SA and Beyond Zero.

**Food Security & Livelihoods**

Food gardens are fundamental in ensuring food security in rural communities where access to nutritious and affordable food is extremely limited. This is becoming an increasing reality with climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic and international affairs affecting large scale agricultural yields and rising food costs.

As we embark on our largest yet food security programme, the process of finding and finalising agreements with groups of women and youth is incredibly important. To ensure we invest in the right people, we first visit the community meetings, then meet with the chief and meet with groups separately to establish the authenticity of the group. We work with them to understand their vision and motivation and then we ensure that we get the buy-in of the community before an MOU is signed.

By the end of the year we had signed partnerships with the first four (of eight) food garden enterprise groups that were demonstrably attempting to address challenges that they face as a community. Each group had secured the rights and lease to communal land with viable water resources and worked with ASAP to map the area and create a list of inputs needed, like water infrastructure, fencing and soil needs to create a productive garden. All members of the food security programme benefit from a digital group where they receive peer support and motivate each other with progress photos. The permaculture food production training is scheduled for the first four garden groups in March and will be followed by garden development and enterprise development training, as well as financial literacy training.
## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### INCOME

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<th>RAND</th>
<th>USD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donation Income</td>
<td>2,131,978</td>
<td>143,529</td>
<td>104,683</td>
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<td>Interest Received</td>
<td>50,914</td>
<td>3,428</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,182,892</strong></td>
<td><strong>146,957</strong></td>
<td><strong>107,182</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents brought forward</td>
<td>1,789,942</td>
<td>120,503</td>
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### COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS

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<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Publicity</td>
<td>188,127</td>
<td>12,665</td>
<td>9,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK Charity Fee</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Charity Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>188,127</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,665</strong></td>
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### CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

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<td><strong>TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>146,683</strong></td>
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### ASSETS

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<td>295</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>1,601,698</td>
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<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>1,998</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>98</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,608,071</strong></td>
<td><strong>108,259</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,958</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES

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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>2,082.00</td>
<td>140.16</td>
<td>102.23</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,082.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>140.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>102.23</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

US & UK currency has been converted at: $1 = R14.853947 & £1 = R20.36613 (average rate for the year)
our supporters
Feb '21 - Mar '22
THANK YOU

Donations in Kind

Amanda Nazo
Anele Tours
Capitec Bank
Harry Curtis & Co
Lehakoe Diaho
Likapolane Solutions
Matatiele Ladies’ Aerobics
Matatiele Methodist Church
Patricia Dlamini (Innovation Led Development Projects)
Tracy Spriggs
Zintle Njiyela
Stefan Labuschagne

Foundations, Government & Trusts

*Ackerman PicknPay Foundation*
*America’s Charities*
*American Endowment Foundation*
*DG Murray Trust*
*GivenGain Foundation*
*National Development Agency*
*National Lotteries Commission*
*Network for Good*
*Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation*
*Uaza Feeding Scheme*

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Andrew O’Neill
Benjamin Burkman
Ben Lederman
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Frances Peak
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Lucy Matthew
Maureen Fox
Matt Williams
Nesta Fitzgerald
Priscilla Higham
Raphael Townsend
Rebecca Macmillan
Sabatino Panetta
Sam Hoffman
Steven Ganless
Susan Crewe
Tri Loc Ho
Vivienne Guinness
Zuko
get involved

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Monetary Donations

Donations can safely be made through our secure website at:
https://www.africansolutions.org/donate

Your contribution will go towards helping the communities in which we operate.
You can make once-off, monthly or annual donations.
There is no minimum amount - every cent counts!

As an approved public benefit organisation, donations to the organisation will be tax deductible and are exempt from donations tax.

Donations

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)

Volunteers

Please email info@africansolutions.org to get involved.

Please email info@africansolutions.org to get involved.

For regular updates, follow us on: