



little
seeds
watch us grow

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

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A JOINT INITIATIVE OF BADISA & DIACONIA

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ABOUT LITTLE SEEDS

Little Seeds is an Early Childhood Development (ECD) unit, which came into being through a need to unify ECD programs and services delivered separately by Diaconia and Badisa.

Diaconia is a joint service group of the Dutch Reformed Church (Western Cape) and Uniting Reformed Church (Cape). Badisa is a faith based designated Child Protection Organisation (CPO).

Our services include:



ECD centres



Day Mother program



Reading groups



SmartStart



Facilitation for faith communities



VISION

Our vision is for all children to have access to quality Early Childhood Development so that they can grow and thrive.

MISSION

We promote and facilitate accessible ECD services in the Cape region, in collaboration with faith communities and a network of partners.

VALUES

Collaboration and integration through the sharing of knowledge, resources, skills and experience.

Co-creation: creating innovative and contextual solutions within networks.

Respect: we acknowledge the uniqueness, vulnerability, and local knowledge within each context.

Integrity: we value operational accountability and transparency.

Initiative: we create awareness, build relationships, and enable learning communities.

MEET THE LITTLE SEEDS TEAM



Erika Hougaard



Nicola Vermeulen



Melanie Thirion



Isabella de Kock



Tammy-Lee
Booyesen



Zylia Volschenk

Erika Hougaard - Program manager

Nicola Vermeulen - Lead Trainer

Melanie Thirion - Congregations Development Officer

Isabella de Kock - SmartStart Lead

Tammy-Lee Booysen - SmartStart

Zylia Volschenk - ECD Co-ordinator

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Barry Matthews

"It takes a village to raise a child" (book by Jane Cowen-Fletcher, 1994) is a shared African proverb that means that an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

We have millions of vulnerable children in our collective villages and communities and without committed "villagers" - the people that contribute in many ways - to raise those children, are often the unsung hero's.

The "villagers" that make so many sacrifices and dedicate their lives to protect, teach, nurture, and grow our children every day, cannot be thanked enough. For without them, their tireless contributions, our children will remain vulnerable.

We must encourage the growth of committed "villagers" to support our children in the most vulnerable of communities as the need in our collective villages are increasing.

Little Seeds and many others similar ECD organizations have committed "villagers" that deserve praise.

We thank you.

Day Mother -training at
URCSA Galvendale in
Gqeberha



MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER

Erika Hougaard

According to Patrick Lencione, author of the book *The Advantage* (Jossey-Bass:2012), the greatest advantage that any company (programme) can achieve is organisational health, which he describes as a process that is not linear and which could also be 'messy' at times. It is based on four principles which involve building a cohesive leadership team, creating- over communicating and reinforcing clarity.

Little Seeds was officially launched in 2019, later became a programme of Badisa jointly managed by Diaconia and Badisa and in April 2023 took the final step to be formally managed by our own Governing Board. This process of building a cohesive leadership team and establishing clarity is still in the making. The way in which staff and stakeholders believed in, embraced and co-created solutions to stay true to our vision and to grow into a 'healthy programme' is something to be proud of.

Little Seeds's strength is reinventing itself by building networks and forming partnerships to strengthen our service delivery and increase our reach. We are thankful to our faithful partners and funders for sharing our vision of creating access to Early Childhood Development so that our children to grow and thrive.

This report will give you a peek into our challenges and success stories over the reporting period. We share it with thankfulness and a strong belief Little Seeds will grow into a strong healthy programme that continues to improve the access and quality of Early Learning for our children.



Day Care programme managers at Little Seeds' office in Bellville

OVERVIEW OF 2022/2023

4698 Children reached

The Little Seeds team focused on enabling, supporting and implementing ECD programmes and projects in communities. This was done through partnerships and collaboration with Badisa programmes, congregations, and a network of partners. We reached 4 698 children through all our initiatives.

Our interventions and services generate awareness of Early Childhood Development and create access to early learning through home-based and community-based programmes and projects, and day care and afterschool care centres.

Raising awareness through networks

Raising awareness about the importance of early learning and the early childhood dilemmas in our country was done by sharing information on social media platforms and conducting workshops in person and online.

Target groups - including the elderly at Ruyterwacht Service Centre, educators and parents - who attended the information sessions were equipped with skills and knowledge of the building blocks and importance of early childhood development as well as skills pertaining to reading, storytelling and playing with children to stimulate their development.



Training at Ruyterwacht Senior Centre



Daycare and Aftercare programme

Little Seeds reached 1097 children through its 14 registered Daycare centres and five Aftercare programmes. Little Seeds Unit continuously supported the centres, especially with financial and human resources management, with the aim to be sustainable in the challenging economic environment.

The final transitioning of the Daycare and Aftercare programmes to two different government departments posed great challenges this past year. This split put significant pressure on programmes to adhere to the different expectations and procedures of each government department. We are hopeful that things will get easier in the future



Reading groups

Little Seeds reached 1562 children on a weekly basis, through 171 Storytellers-volunteers. These reading groups showed continuous growth with specific reference to the communities of Atlantis, Darling and De Doorns.

Access to books, especially in children’s home language, poses a great challenge to these reading groups. Another challenge is finding appropriate and safe venues for groups to gather.



SmartStart

Little Seeds reached 1565 children through the SmartStart programme. The five Club Coaches makes it possible for the programme to be implemented in 14 different communities.

One highlight for our team is that SmartStart invited Dina Fortuin to join the National Night of the Stars event in Johannesburg. She is one of the first SmartStart franchisees that was trained in Worcester in 2016 and she still active and practicing. We are very proud of Dina!

Another highlight was the Club Coaches' work-away-weekend in Swellendam. During this weekend we did our planning, team building and problem solving.

Dina Fortuin, first person left, was honoured at SmartStart's The Night of the Stars in Johannesburg.



Day Mother programme

This programme, mainly implemented by Badisa offices, has created access to quality early learning for 154 children in 11 different communities.

One highlight for this programme was the training of day mothers via URCSA Galvendale in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. Little Seeds Unit is testing this prototype for future use for faith communities.

Unfortunately, the dire economic climate has led many home-based mothers to leave the programme in search of income elsewhere. Sustainable funding for this programme will ensure consistency and contribute to better motivated home-based mothers and the development of young children.

Facilitation for faith communities

Little Seeds Unit designed a process to facilitate faith communities to enable, support and/or implement ECD initiatives and projects in their communities. During this year 12 congregations in the Western Cape Synod were supported to become aware of their calling to be involved in their communities and congregations. Information sessions, consultations, sermons and workshops were presented to, among others, presbyteries, church councils and ministry groups.

A highlight was the designing and first stage roll-out of the strategy to serve the URCSA faith communities through-out the Eastern Cape. Four ECD hubs were capacitated to implement and manage their own ECD projects and initiatives and to host training opportunities for congregations in their cluster groups.

Another highlight was to see how the faith communities in Strand took up their ECD-responsibility, and now serve on the governing body of BadisaStrand, and support them in various ways to reach children. A similar meeting was facilitated in Laingsburg, bringing ECD stakeholders, initiatives and faith communities together.



Rev. Wiseman Calvary, Rev Melanie Thirion and Rev Welcome Majingolo at a hub-meeting at URCSA Mthatha, Eastern Cape



An ECD-meeting between the church councils of N.G kerk Laingsburg and URCSA Laingsburg

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2022/2023



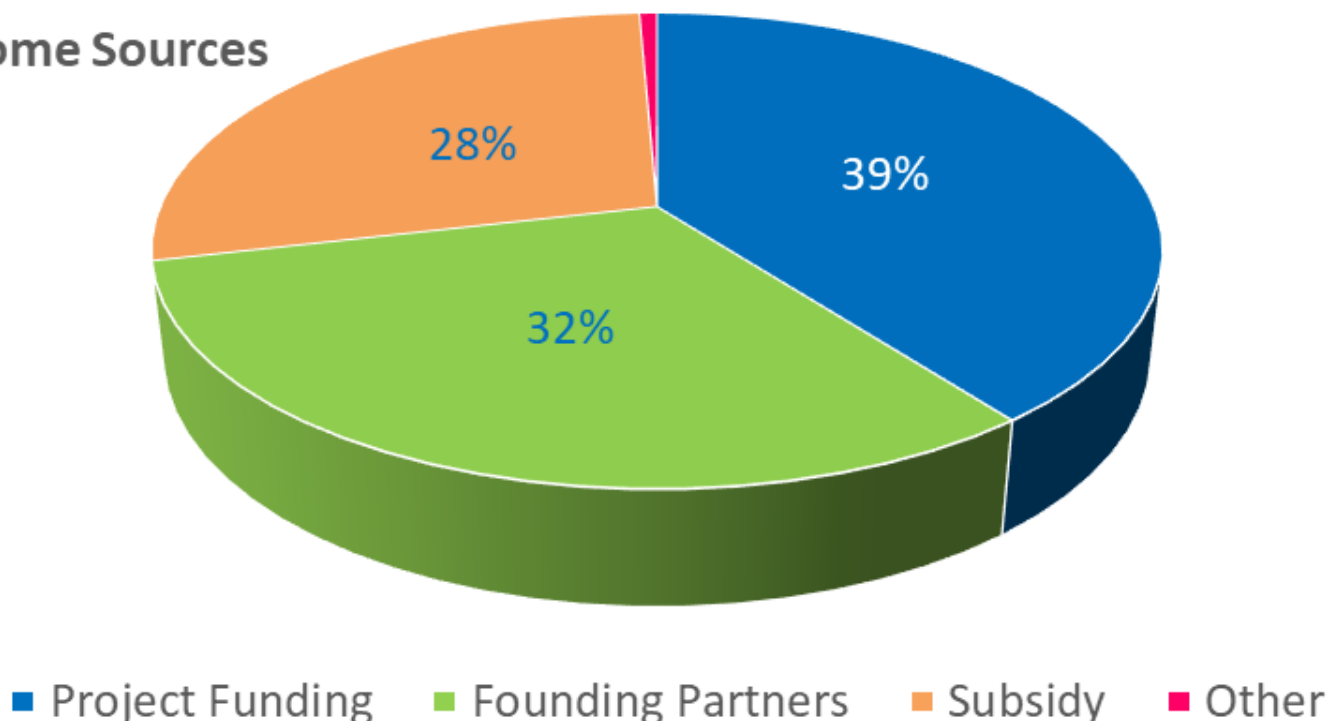
We proudly present to our partners a summary of our Financial Statements for the 9 months ended 31 March 2023.

Little Seeds Unit is grateful to report a net surplus of R191 426 for our first 9 months of operating, a surplus that would not have been possible without the continuous support from our funders, donors and partners.



Income Statement - summarised

Income Sources



Income Statement - summarised (continued)

	Rands
INCOME	
Project Funding	1 268 621
Funding Founding Partners	1 019 129
Subsidy WCED	896 077
Donations and other	21 540
	3 205 367
EXPENSES	
Salaries & Staff Training	2 138 799
Programme Expenditure	690 564
Office & Administration	157 925
Vehicle & Travelling Expenses	26 653
	3 013 941
NET SURPLUS	191 426

Balance sheet - summerised


	Rands
ASSETS	
Fixed Assets	11 528
Accounts Receivable	641 049
Bank Account	102 946
	755 523
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	443 831
Provision for Leave	117 985
	561 816
CAPITAL & RESERVES	193 707

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, we are grateful to our Heavenly Father, for calling us to do this work and who grants us new grace every morning to do it well.

Secondly, thank you to the newly elected governing board members, for their time and willingness to share their expertise to make Little Seeds Unit function well and grow. Our new governing board members are:

Olaf Nelson	Robert Knobel
Alet Fick	Barry Matthews (Chairperson)
Twanette Acker	Petrus Gysman
Christine Quickfall	Sean Esterhuizen
Sean Esterhuizen	Nioma Venter



We would like to thank all our stakeholders, partners and sponsors, for enabling us to do our work:

- Diaconia
- Badisa Management programme and other Badisa programmes
- Department of Social Development
- Western Cape Education Department
- Uniting Reformed Church congregants and leaders
- Dutch Reformed Church Congregants and leaders
- SmartStart
- Programme managers and staff of Daycare and Afterschool Care programmes
- Storytellers
- Day mothers
- Our partners: Sikunye, Cape Span, Orchard Africa
- Our sponsors: Abax Investments, Donors

Lastly, to all the children and parents/caregivers impacted by our services, it is an immense privilege to play a role in your lives.

We honour you!

We love what we do and have fun while doing it!



Storytellers in Citrusdal - November 2022



Raising awareness with the 2022 final year theology students at University Stellenbosch



Value of Play-workshop presented to an international visitors and local pastors at Orchard: Africa in Somerset West - June 2022



A playful moment showcasing Little Seeds's services at the #integritas conference - November 2022



SmartStart Club Coaches and Lead Trainer

We love what we do and have fun while doing it!

N.G kerk Worcester-Vallei
treating the Breederivier
Valley's Smartstarters to a
Women's Day breakfast -
August 2022



A visit to the beautiful Karoo-town of
Fraserburg in July 2022, to raise ECD-
awareness at the N.G kerk and the
community.

Create-and-read-your-own-story fun at
the Reading group training at URCSA
Worcester-Suid February 2023. This is
usually a highlight-moment during the
training.





UNIT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
EENHEID VIR VROEËKINDONTWIKKELING

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