



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION REVIEW 2025

*changing the way we're changing the world*



Produced by the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town Supported by the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation

**Designed by:** Mawuko Lovi | **Written by:** Luvuyo Maseko and Simnikiwe Xanga



**For more information contact:**

 **Luvuyo Maseko**  
[Luvuyo.maseko@uct.ac.za](mailto:Luvuyo.maseko@uct.ac.za)




**For more information contact:**

 **Simnikiwe Xanga**  
[Simnikiwe.xanga@uct.ac.za](mailto:Simnikiwe.xanga@uct.ac.za)

# CONTENT



FOREWORD .....	4
INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY .....	5
CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SOCIALLY INNOVATIVE WORK.....	7
<b>ORGANISATIONAL PROFILES</b>	
Amathuba Collective .....	9
Arts for Life Projects.....	10
Chrysalis Academy.....	11
Funda Nathi Foundation.....	12
Girls Missions Camps.....	13
Kulisha Consulting.....	15
Leratong Community Hub.....	16
Maths Centre Incorporating Sciences.....	17
Mintor.....	18
Pedal For Good.....	19
SOS Children's Villages South Africa.....	21
Think Ahead Transformation Academy.....	22
Umthombo Wempilo.....	23
YearBeyond .....	24
<b>KEY LESSONS</b> .....	26
<b>WAY FORWARD</b> .....	29
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	29



# FOREWORD

---

South Africa's youth carry both the burden of our country's history and the promise of its future. They navigate multiple overlapping challenges such as unemployment, poverty, mental distress, and social exclusion, while simultaneously showing remarkable resilience, adaptability, and creativity. At the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation, our investment in youth development is rooted in the belief that when we create space for young people to lead, learn, and participate meaningfully in society, we unlock not only individual potential, but collective progress.

This Youth Development Innovation Review arrives at a crucial time. Across the country, communities are grappling with complex and shifting realities. The youth sector, too, has had to evolve. We are seeing a deepened understanding that impactful youth development work cannot operate in silos. It must be grounded in holistic, community-led, and systemic approaches that reflect the lived experiences of young people.

What sets this review apart is its ability to lift up not just programmes, but principles. The stories within these pages reflect the courage of organisations willing to question old models, experiment with new ones, and centre young people in every stage of their work. These innovators are not waiting for permission. They are co-creating futures with youth, from the grassroots up. Whether through WhatsApp mentorship, theatre for healing, or co-designed learning hubs, each organisation's profile highlights what is possible when trust, care, and collaboration become core design elements.

At the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation, we are particularly proud to support initiatives that champion innovation, systems thinking, and holistic impact. Too often, impact is measured by numbers alone. But as these featured organisations show, real transformation is relational. It is seen in the shift from isolation to belonging, from surviving to thriving.

We hope this review serves as both recognition and an invitation. Recognition of the tireless work already being done in schools, communities, and informal networks across South Africa, and an invitation to policymakers, funders, and practitioners to support an ecosystem that places young people at the centre, not just as recipients, but as co-creators of change.



**Mmakgosi Chaane-Pule**

*Programme Manager*

*Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation*




# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The Youth Development Innovation Review recognises and celebrates the important work of passionate organisations and individuals dedicated to improving young people's lives. It demonstrates the range and richness of innovation happening throughout South Africa's youth development landscape.

We know that youth unemployment and disenfranchisement are issues without static solutions. These are dynamic, shifting issues that require flexible, innovative responses rooted in openness, learning, and ongoing adaptation. This review is intended to inspire and encourage readers to implement and adapt work that supports young people holistically and sustainably.

Over the past three years, the Youth Development Innovation portfolio at the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship has been researching innovations in the youth development sector. We developed a framework and criteria for identifying this innovative work, and in this review, we describe fourteen organisations that broadly meet these criteria.

**For an organisation to be considered socially innovative, they need to:**

 <b>Address a social need</b>	 <b>Be sustainable</b>
 <b>Be scalable</b>	 <b>Create impact</b>
 <b>Be collaborative</b>	 <b>Be creative and experimental</b>

The organisations we have selected to include here collectively provide valuable insights into the potential of youth development initiatives when pursued rigorously, compassionately, and holistically. There are many organisations (non-profit and for-profit) undertaking valuable work with young people, but we could not include all of them in this review. We chose to provide specific profiles of the ones we found to be demonstrating excellence in the six areas indicated above, based on desktop research and qualitative interviews with key members of the organisations.

We trust that this review serves not only as a reflection of promising initiatives, but also as a practical guide for those working to strengthen support for South Africa's young people.





UCT  
GSB  
CHANGE MAKERS



# CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SOCIALLY INNOVATIVE WORK

## 1. SOCIAL NEED

Initiatives must respond to real, documented challenges facing youth in South Africa, including: access to quality education; skills development and second chances; economic transformation, entrepreneurship, and job creation; physical and mental health promotion; social cohesion and nation-building; effective and responsive youth development systems.



## 2. SUSTAINABILITY

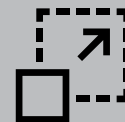
Organisations must have been active for at least three years and show signs of financial sustainability.

This means having multiple sources of income, not only grant funding, and a track record of ongoing operation.



## 3. SCALABILITY

Key questions about scalability include whether they offer training, capacity-building, or resource-sharing with others; and how they have expanded to new communities, platforms, or audiences.



## 4. IMPACT

In order to create real impact, organisations need to demonstrate that they are tracking baseline and post-intervention data over a minimum of two years, including indicators of change in youth outcomes (employment, mindset, skills, etc.).



## 5. COLLABORATION

Organisations must engage with other role-players in the ecosystem, through multi-actor partnerships with government, communities, donors or the private sector, and demonstrate a willingness to build collaboration pipelines and shared infrastructure.



## 6. CREATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL

Innovation is about learning, adapting and evolving. The most innovative organisations pivot when things don't work and learn from failure. They continuously test, refine, and improve on their implementation to ensure they achieve results.





# Amathuba Collective

**Base:** Cape Town, Western Cape

**Operational Area:** Nationally

## CHALLENGE

The Amathuba Collective was founded to address a critical and persistent challenge within the youth development sector: the failure to help young people from under-resourced communities make a genuine transition from school into meaningful livelihoods. After two decades of work in the sector, founder Emily Rudolph observed that traditional interventions often measured superficial outputs like attendance, without determining if young people had experienced real behavioural change, found lasting confidence, or built the internal motivation to pursue better futures.

Programmes focusing on HIV or employability frequently overlooked the foundational emotional well-being of participants. The impact of deep-seated trauma, fear, and a lack of psychological safety meant many youth were trapped in "survival mode", unable to envision or pursue new possibilities for their lives. The clear need was for a model that would first meet young people where they were emotionally, support their mental well-being, and unlock their intrinsic motivation and creativity.

## SOLUTION

The organisation's response is rooted in radical compassion and youth-centred innovation, operating on the powerful principle that young people need to be well in order to do well. The organisation aims to create safe spaces where young people can heal, think clearly, and grow the confidence to build their own future pathways. A key programme is its mental health support call centre, a phone-based system that provides participants with consistent, weekly check-ins for at least 12 months. These conversations, facilitated by trained peer support agents who are themselves young people, focus on building confidence, resilience, and self-love. The calls are not about giving advice but act as a reflective mirror of possibility, allowing youth to recognise their own achievements, set personal goals, and start believing in their capacity to shape their own realities.

Alongside this, the flagship Foundation Training is a four-week programme that develops emotional resilience, helps build a personal vision, and instils the confidence needed to engage meaningfully with opportunities. This training, initially developed for Amathuba's own peer agents, now also serves young people in the hospitality and tourism sector. The entire approach is deeply youth-led, with young people positioned as partners and co-creators in every aspect of the work, from design to delivery.

## IMPACT

The impact of Amathuba's work is measured not just in numbers but through profound changes in confidence, positivity, and hope. Young people who engage with the programmes report greater self-belief, healthier relationships, and a stronger sense of agency over their lives. By helping them heal and feel psychologically safe, Amathuba enables a shift from a survival mindset to one capable of creative problem-solving and long-term planning.

The organisation currently supports around 12 000 young people across the country, with ambitious plans to grow that number to 100 000. A pioneering AI tool, developed in partnership with the Anglo American Foundation, is underway to capture "emotional data" more robustly, tracking changes in well-being and confidence over time to provide stronger evidence for the model's effectiveness. Ultimately, Amathuba aims to grow into a movement that reshapes how young people are supported, challenging the narrative of youth as passive recipients and instead positioning them as active shapers of their own futures.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration is woven into the DNA of the Amathuba Collective. The organisation has built a wide network of partnerships with corporates, social enterprises, and non-profit networks that share its core values of youth-led innovation and mental well-being. It acts as a bridge, bringing mental well-being support into spaces that might otherwise neglect it. The organisation is equally intentional about advocating for systemic change, engaging partners to rethink the very definition of "impact" away from simple outputs and towards genuine behavioural and mindset shifts. This advocacy helps expand Amathuba's reach while building momentum for broader sectoral change. Where partners cannot fund services directly, the team works creatively to find financial solutions, ensuring that no young person is left behind due to a lack of resources. This flexible and open approach to partnership has been critical to its success and growth.

## INNOVATION

The primary innovation of the Amathuba Collective is its foundational focus on mental well-being as the non-negotiable starting point for all other youth development. It has demonstrated that sustainable change becomes possible only when young people feel safe, supported, and hopeful. The model is

profoundly youth-led, trusting young people as the central agents of change, both as beneficiaries and as the primary staff and peer supporters delivering the services. This is evidenced by the fact that only four of the organisation's staff members are not youth. Another key innovation is its hybrid sustainability model, which blends non-profit and social enterprise approaches to create a resilient financial base. The organisation's entire culture is one of experimentation, showing how innovation can thrive when young people are trusted and given the space to lead.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Amathuba Collective's model is intentionally designed for significant growth. Its phone-based delivery approach is highly replicable, with concrete plans for additional centres, including a second site in Gauteng. Beyond its own expansion, Amathuba aims to train and support other organisations to deliver similar models, thereby multiplying its impact without diluting its core values. Financial sustainability is secured through a robust, multi-stream revenue strategy. This includes income from virtual mental health support service contracts, fees for its Foundation Training, corporate broad-based black economic empowerment partnerships for implementing skills development and Youth Employment Service (YES) projects, and traditional grant funding.

This hybrid approach ensures the organisation can scale its reach while remaining financially resilient. The long-term vision is to catalyse a widespread movement of radical compassion, where every young person recognises their own capability, resilience, and power to take charge of their life.

# Arts for Life Projects

**Base:** Seshego, Polokwane, Limpopo Province

**Operational Area:** Seshego, Polokwane, Limpopo Province

## CHALLENGE

In many under-resourced communities across South Africa, creatively talented young people face a significant lack of access to theatre spaces, professional training, or viable pathways into the arts. Founder Herman Tema saw this gap firsthand through his interactions with schools and community centres, where a clear enthusiasm for performance among youth was stifled by a lack of structure, support, and opportunity. Conversations with teachers, learners, and drop-in centres confirmed a real hunger for creative development, but revealed a stark absence of formal channels through which young people could cultivate their skills, gain discipline, and explore the arts as a serious pursuit, whether for personal growth or potential professional application.

## SOLUTION

Arts for Life takes a community-embedded and resourceful approach to youth arts development. Instead of waiting for perfect infrastructure or dedicated venues, the team proactively uses existing spaces, such as schools, community halls, and youth centres, transforming them into impromptu training and performance venues. Its methodology is deeply collaborative; programming is developed in close consultation with learners, teachers, and community members, and is continually refined through iterative evaluations after each training block.

The organisation runs structured theatre training programmes, public performances, and peer mentorship sessions. Each participant's artistic and personal growth is carefully tracked through detailed lesson plans, individual feedback, and recorded performance footage, providing tangible markers of development. Beyond direct training, Tema and his team mentor other emerging youth arts organisations, extending their impact beyond their immediate cohort. They are also exploring a talent management agency model, connecting their most promising young performers with professional opportunities in the industry.

## IMPACT

Arts for Life measures its impact through a combination of formal documentation and profound experiential shifts. Participants not only develop as performers; they experience significant personal growth, showing marked improvements in confidence, personal discipline, communication skills, and emotional literacy. Tema speaks of young

people learning to express themselves articulately, show up on time consistently, work effectively in teams, and take genuine pride in their talents.

These internal shifts, while seemingly small to an outside observer, are transformative in a context where many youths struggle with low self-esteem and have few constructive outlets for expression. The ripple effects are visible in the organisation's expanding reach, currently serving three schools and a youth centre with plans for further growth. Several learners have progressed into professional spaces, aided by the organisation's training and external partnerships. The diligent documentation practices, including videos and evaluations, not only help the team improve its work but also demonstrate tangible progress to funders and collaborators.

## COLLABORATION

Partnership is a cornerstone of the Arts for Life model. Its principal collaborator, ASSITEJ, provides critical support in the form of stipends for facilitators and transport for events. However, Tema is quick to emphasise that the value of collaboration is not merely financial. The organisation thrives on meaningful relationships built on a shared vision, reciprocal learning, and practical, mutual support. It reaches participants through door-to-door outreach, school visits, and word-of-mouth campaigns within the community. Demonstrating a commitment to ecosystem development, Arts for Life also provides support to newer youth organisations, helping them build capacity in facilitation, programme design, and navigating the broader arts landscape. Whether partnering for resources, mentorship, or co-delivery, a collaborative lens is applied to everything the organisation does.

## INNOVATION

The key innovation from Arts for Life lies in its powerful demonstration that a lack of dedicated infrastructure is not a barrier to impact. The organisation has shown that with flexibility, adaptability, and creativity, existing community spaces can be effectively transformed into centres of artistic learning and expression. Herman's reflections offer the critical insight that raw talent alone is insufficient; young people need structure, training, and, most importantly, someone who believes in them. The arts are positioned not just as a vehicle for expression, but as a discipline that builds life skills and opens doors to broader opportunities.

Finally, the organisation embodies the principle of iterative learning, treating every session as an opportunity to reflect, improve, and reimagine its approach. This mindset keeps the organisation relevant and resilient, even amid shifting funding landscapes.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Arts for Life model is inherently replicable because it is built to be lightweight and easily implemented within existing community infrastructure. By relying on partnerships and available spaces, the organisation has proven that impactful youth arts programming does not require major capital investment, but rather commitment, creativity, and strong relationships. Its income is currently drawn from a diversified mix of sources, including funding from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the National Lotteries Commission, community contributions, ticket sales, and, more recently, agency management fees.

However, achieving long-term financial sustainability remains a challenge. The team is actively working to secure essential equipment and technical infrastructure, such as sound systems and reliable access to performance spaces, which would help professionalise and expand Arts for Life's offerings. Scaling will involve extending its reach to more schools and youth centres, as well as supporting other youth-focused organisations through mentorship and training, thereby growing the ecosystem of community arts.

# Chrysalis Academy

**Base:** Tokai, Western Cape

**Operational Area:** Western Cape province

## CHALLENGE

Young people in the Western Cape, particularly those from under-resourced communities, face interwoven challenges: exposure to violence, substance abuse, gangsterism, and a lack of positive role models. This limits their direction, self-confidence, and support needed to transition into adulthood successfully. Traditional interventions often fail by focusing only on skills or academics without addressing the underlying trauma, fractured self-worth, and emotional pain many carry. Without holistic support, young people remain vulnerable to negative influences and cannot see a future beyond the cycles of struggle they know.

## SOLUTION

Chrysalis Academy provides a holistic, three-month residential programme for youth aged 18 to 34, grounded in discipline, structure, and deep self-discovery. The immersive experience is designed to take participants out of their comfort zones through physical drills, mountain hikes, group therapy, and career workshops. The goal is to instil self-belief, personal accountability, and a renewed sense of purpose.

The academy's foundational innovation is its commitment to values-based education and inner work. It operates on the principle that sustainable change starts internally; by first healing the person and rebuilding their sense of inherent dignity, you can then effectively equip the citizen. The rigorous structure provides the container, and the compassionate inner work provides the catalyst for genuine metamorphosis.

## IMPACT

The impact is most visible in the lived trajectories of graduates. Young people who arrive feeling defeated and angry emerge as confident, motivated adults with a desire to contribute to their communities. Many secure meaningful employment, pursue further studies, or become community leaders and mentors.

While employment and education rates are tracked, the academy's philosophy also values profound internal shifts: renewed self-worth, increased emotional intelligence, healthier coping mechanisms, and the ability to form positive relationships. Alumni speak of moving from a survival mindset to one of purpose, a fundamental change in identity and aspiration that marks the programme's true success.

## COLLABORATION

Chrysalis operates through strategic collaboration. Its key partnership is with the Western Cape Department of Community Safety, which provides core funding and support. It also works with local municipalities, the South African Police Service, NGOs, and community structures to ensure effective referrals and post-programme reintegration.

A critical component is its enduring commitment to alumni. It maintains active relationships, facilitating job placements, study bursaries, and mentor networks through a dedicated post-programme support system. This creates a sustainable ecosystem that reinforces the residential phase's gains, ensuring transformation is long-term.

## INNOVATION

Chrysalis innovates by asserting that sustainable societal transformation must begin with the individual's inner world. Its primary innovation is this courageous psychosocial focus, which addresses trauma and builds inner resilience as a prerequisite for all other development.

The model uniquely blends enforced discipline and high expectations with genuine empathy and unconditional positive regard, a combination of tough love and deep support. It also innovatively uses nature as a co-teacher; activities like hiking in the Western Cape mountains are integrated therapeutic processes that provide calm, strength, and mental clarity often absent in township life.

Finally, its theory of change sees each graduate not just as a successful individual, but as a potential changemaker and active citizen, aiming to create positive ripple effects in families and communities.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chrysalis has a well-established model that has scaled across several campuses in the Western Cape and could serve as a blueprint for other provinces. Sustainability is currently underpinned by significant government funding, but the academy is proactively diversifying its income sources for greater resilience.

Future growth potential lies in sharing its intellectual property through licensing, facilitator training, and influencing national youth development policy. A major underused asset is its alumni network, which, with investment, could become a powerful, self-sustaining force for peer-to-peer mentorship and community support, extending reach without linear cost increases.

# Funda Nathi Foundation

**Base:** Tweefontein, Mpumalanga

**Operational Area:** Tweefontein, Mpumalanga

## CHALLENGE

Funda Nathi was initiated in the small town of kwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga by a team of passionate young people who had an intimate understanding of their community's struggles. Their initial vision was straightforward: to offer supplementary after-school academic programmes for learners ranging from Grade R through to Grade 9.

However, they quickly encountered the harsh, complex realities that defined the lives of the youth they aimed to serve. They observed that pure academic support, while valuable, was fundamentally insufficient against a backdrop of pervasive intergenerational poverty, crippling high unemployment rates, and often unstable or fractured home environments. These systemic issues consistently undermined academic progress, as a child struggling with hunger, domestic uncertainty, or a lack of basic necessities could not be expected to focus effectively on their schoolwork. This realisation prompted a deeper inquiry, revealing that to help young people succeed inside the classroom, they had to create robust support systems for them outside of it.

## SOLUTION

Funda Nathi's work has organically evolved into a dynamic, multi-pronged intervention model that skilfully blends formal education, personal empowerment, entrepreneurship, and artistic creativity. The core of its work remains its foundational education support programme, which provides essential academic grounding. However, this is now powerfully supplemented by a diverse array of youth-centred initiatives designed to build confidence, practical skills, and resilience. This includes comprehensive arts and culture sessions that encompass fine art, dance, filming, and photography, allowing young people to explore their identities and express themselves in new ways.

It also hosts impactful in-person events and focuses strongly on entrepreneurship training and direct income-generation projects. Youth are equipped with practical, marketable skills in areas such as traditional beadwork, bush-cutting using organisation-owned machinery, and professional photography and video production. All of this is underpinned by a powerful, lived ethos of community-led innovation, where young people and community members are not passive beneficiaries but active co-designers and implementers of the programmes.

## IMPACT

Funda Nathi defines and measures its impact in deeply personal, contextual, and practical ways that resonate with the real lives of their participants. For them, genuine success is not merely about attendance numbers or the distribution of certificates; it is about whether a young person has experienced a meaningful, positive change in their life, their home circumstances, or their fundamental mindset and outlook for the future.

The organisation tracks this nuanced impact through a variety of consistent methods, including surveys, internal reviews involving all team members, and regular recap and reflection meetings. This constant, embedded feedback loop allows it to remain exceptionally responsive and nimble, and able to adjust its programmes to the evolving needs of its community in real time. Beyond direct programme delivery, Funda Nathi has also made its mark on a systemic level by recently co-developing a formal youth policy for its local municipality, directly influencing government frameworks with its ground-level, real-world experience.

## COLLABORATION

Funda Nathi's approach to partnerships is both strategically bold and deeply thoughtful. It carefully vets potential partners to ensure a clear mutual value and a fundamental alignment of vision and values, consciously avoiding relationships with entities whose primary goals are too far removed from its own community-rooted objectives. This selective stance is born from observed lessons of other organisations that lost their essence in the pursuit of funding.

That being stated, intentional collaboration remains a core operational focus. It maintains active working relationships with local schools, municipalities, national youth networks, and other youth development organisations. A particularly innovative aspect of its collaboration is its approach to resource generation. It offers its hard skills, such as video production services, to local businesses in exchange for sponsorship, thereby trading value in creative, sustainable ways that build local economic interdependence.

## INNOVATION

One of the most powerful and innovative aspects of Funda Nathi is its embodiment of humble, authentic leadership. The team leads not from a position of superior knowledge, but from a posture of continuous learning, seeing every interaction as a genuine opportunity for mutual growth. Furthermore, it consciously and innovatively resists the immense external pressure to scale too quickly or to blindly follow donor trends. Its self-determined, slow-growth model has allowed it to stay firmly grounded in its community's reality and remain purpose-driven.

As its head executive explains, its motivation was never to be a millionaire, but to contribute to society and build something to last. This profound, long-term perspective is the bedrock of its innovation, reflected in its name, Funda Nathi (Learn With Us), which positions it as part of the community, not as a separate saviour.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Funda Nathi is pursuing scale in its own unique, contextually intelligent way. It is not primarily focused on expanding its own physical footprint, but on building strong, decentralised networks and creating community-powered models that are inherently designed to be replicated and owned locally. An upcoming school events tour, for example, will operate on revenue-sharing agreements between host schools and local groups, allowing the model to scale without overstretching the core team.

Its approach to financial sustainability is equally innovative and self-reliant, based on a diversified portfolio of income streams. These include practical equipment rentals, revenue from event ticket sales, income from the sale of beadwork and other crafts, providing paid filming services, and collecting small, affordable monthly fees from learners. This allows it to remain predominantly self-funded, maintaining limited and strategic reliance on external grants.

# Girls Missions Camps

**Base:** Khayelitsha, Eersteriver

**Operational Area:** Khayelitsha, Eersteriver

## CHALLENGE

Girls Missions Camps emerged as a direct, heartfelt response to a deeply personal yet widely systemic issue plaguing communities across South Africa: the profound lack of safe, nurturing, and empowering spaces dedicated specifically to young girls, particularly those growing up in townships and rural areas.

Founder Pam Mgyai drew immense inspiration from her own difficult childhood experiences of isolation, pervasive shyness, and the unique challenges of growing up without a mother's guidance in Gugulethu. Through her observations, she noticed a disturbing pattern: many young girls in her community seemed to drift without ambition or long-term vision, living only with plans for the next day. This short-term outlook, born from a context of limited exposure and a scarcity of positive role models, made these girls highly vulnerable to a host of negative outcomes, including unplanned teenage pregnancies, cycles of dependency, and premature school dropout.

## SOLUTION

In answer to this pressing need, Girls Missions Camps was founded with a clear and compelling mission: to create a transformative safe space where girls could physically and emotionally step outside their often stressful and limiting usual environments, to rediscover their authentic selves, and to plant the seeds of long-term ambition and purpose.

The organisation's primary vehicle for this is a series of immersive camps held during every school holiday period. These camps are carefully designed to be holistic experiences, combining energetic outdoor activities, competitive sports, intensive personal development workshops, practical life skills training, and, crucially, exposure to new, inspiring environments and career opportunities. The curriculum covers themes critically relevant to their lives, including confidence-building, understanding bodily autonomy and consent, reproductive health education, and strategic decision-making.

By intentionally placing the girls in a supportive, non-judgemental, and sisterly environment, the programme creates a unique psychological container for exploration and growth. The model is fundamentally preventive in its philosophy, and it includes insightful mother-daughter workshops to strengthen intergenerational relationships and ensure the lessons of the camp are reinforced at home.

## IMPACT

Girls Missions Camps measures its impact through a blended approach that values both structured data and deep, relational qualitative feedback. It employs practical tools such as pre- and post-programme reflection forms and maintains an ongoing, open dialogue with participants, parents, and teachers. The key indicators of success are profoundly meaningful in the South African context: observable reductions in rates of teenage pregnancy, a decrease in school dropout rates among participants, marked improvements in emotional well-being, and the strengthening of intergenerational understanding.

Beyond these specific metrics, the organisation places a strong emphasis on observable behavioural changes, positive shifts in confidence, and increased participation in school and sports activities as powerful markers of internal transformation. The founder believes that while formal metrics are important, the real proof of change lies in the visible, day-to-day transformations she witnesses, such as a girl who was once withdrawn now speaking up confidently, or a participant who chooses to end a risky relationship.

## COLLABORATION

Girls Missions Camps understands its limitations and therefore thrives on strategic, purposeful collaboration. It operates from the core belief that no single organisation can possibly address every facet of the complex challenges facing young girls. Consequently, it has proactively built a diverse and supportive network of partners. It works closely with health-focused organisations that provide essential, expert-led reproductive health education and sanitary products. It partners with mental health professionals who offer pro-bono counselling support.

Local foundations and corporates contribute critical resources or logistical support, while other NGOs assist with excursions and sports activities. Demonstrating a deep commitment to ecosystem development, Girls Missions Camps also actively mentors smaller emerging youth-led initiatives. Its approach to all partnerships is deeply values-driven, and it works intimately with parents and caregivers to ensure its interventions are deeply embedded in the social fabric.

## INNOVATION

Mgyai's journey from a shy girl from Gugulethu to a confident social innovator underscores the powerful innovation that lived experience can bring to the field of social development. Her foundational insight, that "what the eyes see is what they want", is not just a phrase but the guiding principle of her programme's methodology. This understanding drives the innovative use of exposure as a primary tool for change.

The camp setting itself is an innovation; it provides not just educational content, but a transformative context – a temporary village of safety where girls can breathe freely, reflect deeply, and envision a different future. Another key innovative element is the programme's intentional harnessing of the therapeutic and formative power of nature and organised sports. Mgyai also brings an innovative philosophy to the work, emphasising that the process of empowering girls should be infused with joy, play, and celebration.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Girls Missions Camps operates with a clear, ambitious, and long-term vision for its growth and legacy. The audacious 20-year plan involves eventually establishing a dedicated, full-time school or academy that is entirely modelled on the camp's core principles of empowerment. In the shorter term, geographical scaling is already organically underway, with growing interest from provinces beyond its current operational bases.

Financial sustainability is proactively supported through a multi-pronged, self-reliant strategy. This includes implementing a sliding scale for member fees, creating income from sports clinics and tournaments, running targeted crowdfunding campaigns, and submitting strategic grant applications. Its long-term strategy hinges not only on financial growth but more importantly on sustained community relevance and continuous leadership development from within their own alumni ranks.



# Kulisha Consulting

**Base:** Durban, KwaZulu-Natal

**Operational Area:** Nationally

## CHALLENGE

Kulisha Consulting was founded in response to South Africa's significant lag in innovation, entrepreneurial development, and leadership compared to global trends. While international leaders were already discussing advanced industrial revolutions, South Africa continued to grapple with entrenched socio-economic challenges, critically high youth unemployment, and a glaring lack of robust leadership pipelines.

For founder Kwazini Zulu, these gaps were clear and interconnected: young people often lacked not only essential business acumen but also the personal mastery, confidence, and visionary thinking required to thrive in competitive local and global environments. Kulisha was created to address these dual deficits, offering a practical and forward-thinking approach to building a new generation of entrepreneurs and leaders capable of competing on the world stage.

## SOLUTION

Based in Durban, Kulisha Consulting operates as a transformation and training consultancy specialising in enterprise development, leadership cultivation, and impact-driven implementation services. Its work is organised across three key areas. The first is Enterprise Development, which involves running accelerators, venture-building programmes, and providing strategic growth support for entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on those aged 18 to 35. The second is Transformation and Implementation, where Kulisha delivers end-to-end project management and corporate social investment initiatives for clients, ensuring these projects create measurable social and economic value. The third pillar is Training and Leadership Development, offering both accredited and non-accredited programmes.

A core company value is co-creation. The firm does not develop solutions in a vacuum but engages deeply with every client to ensure interventions are tailored to address real-world, context-specific challenges. This approach is powered by a network of freelance facilitators and consultants who are themselves experienced practitioners, bringing lived expertise, not just textbook theory, into every workshop and strategy session.

## IMPACT

Kulisha measures its success through tangible, outcomes-based metrics aligned with its vision to "create a legacy of entrepreneurial leadership in Africa." For enterprise development work, key indicators include job creation, revenue growth for supported businesses, and improved operational efficiency. In the social impact space, it tracks how organisations have increased their reach and depth of effect.

For leadership programmes, impact is measured more reflectively. Participants build a "portfolio of evidence," answering: What have I tried? What did I learn? What do I need to improve? This creates accountability for behavioural change, such as a leader becoming a more active listener or a more approachable manager. The firm's philosophy is that legacy speaks to long-term gains and sustainability, asking whether interventions lead to continuous growth and value creation long after their direct involvement ends.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration and strategic partnership are central to Kulisha's operational model and theory of change. The firm believes effective solutions require ecosystem thinking, moving away from fragmented, siloed interventions. It actively builds a network of partners, including corporates, government agencies, and non-profit organisations, to deliver holistic solutions.

Partnerships are deliberately chosen based on a clear alignment of values and the principle of mutual value exchange. Zulu emphasises that the firm has walked away from deals where values did not align, prioritising integrity and long-term impact over short-term gain. This values-driven approach ensures every collaboration delivers meaningful benefit for all stakeholders and, ultimately, for the broader ecosystem Kulisha aims to strengthen.

## INNOVATION

Kulisha's innovative edge lies in its hybrid model, merging traditional for-profit business disciplines with a core, impact-driven mission. It challenges the sector to move beyond "small thinking," arguing that businesses at an early stage should still plan for scale, sustainability, and systemic influence.

A key insight from Zulu is the critical need to overcome widespread duplication of effort in the youth development sector. He advocates for increased sharing of best practices, strategic alignment, and trust-building across the ecosystem as essential for creating the systemic change individual organisations cannot achieve alone. Internally, Kulisha fosters a culture of flexibility, agility, and creativity. It avoids micromanagement, trusting its team of practitioners to leverage their expertise, which allows the firm to remain responsive and innovative in a fast-moving environment.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Kulisha's revenue model is entirely self-sustaining, built on fee-for-service consulting, training programmes, and strategic project implementation. It was started with personal savings and has grown without external donor funding, a deliberate choice to maintain independence and align incentives with client success.

The firm scales its capacity through a curated network of freelance facilitators and experts, allowing it to take on more work without the overhead of a large, permanent staff. Looking ahead, Kulisha has a strategic vision to evolve into a fund manager. Leveraging its strong networks and on-the-ground insight, it aims to direct capital from investors and corporates towards high-potential entrepreneurs and social innovators who are making a tangible difference. This next step would allow Kulisha to amplify its impact, bridging the critical gap between grassroots innovation and the resources needed to scale it.



# Leratong Community Hub

**Base:** Lorentzville, Johannesburg & Makwane Village, QwaQwa

**Operational Area:** Gauteng and Free State communities.

## CHALLENGE

Leratong Community Hub emerged in direct response to the stark lack of access to resources, training, and opportunity faced by youth and teenage mothers in under-resourced communities. Many young people were trapped in cycles of unemployment, unable to gain the work experience or practical skills needed to improve their futures.

The founders, who possessed lived experience of these challenges, recognised that effective intervention needed to be inclusive and holistic. They observed that supporting one person, such as a teenage mother, often meant supporting her entire household, as leaving others behind would create an imbalance. The challenge was therefore not just about individual skill deficits, but about addressing interconnected familial and community-wide barriers to advancement, particularly in areas with severe scarcity of basic services and developmental spaces like parks and libraries.

## SOLUTION

Leratong Community Hub offers a deeply human-centred and highly flexible model for youth development, grounded in a nuanced understanding of the multiple, intersecting challenges young people face. Rather than being tied to a fixed location, it works fluidly across community venues, partner sites, and shared learning spaces—proving that profound impact does not require permanent, owned infrastructure.

Its work spans a wide age range, providing targeted interventions that respond to specific life stages. These include antenatal and psychosocial support for teenage mothers, personal development coaching for older youth, foundational work-readiness training, and after-school programs for children. A key part of its approach is strategic talent identification and referral. The hub identifies promising candidates within its programs, understands their strengths, and connects them to formal employment and training partners like the Youth Employment Service (YES) or learnership providers, while providing essential in-house mentorship and preparation.

Recognising the importance of future-focused skills, the hub has introduced tech-based learning, such as coding for children, delivered through partnerships with aftercare programs, thereby using existing community infrastructure to maximise reach. Its methodology is deeply collaborative; programming is developed with input from the youth themselves, ensuring relevance and ownership.

## IMPACT

Leratong's impact is both quantitatively measurable and deeply relational. A standout achievement was a partnership that enabled 95 out of 120 local participants to graduate with NQF-aligned qualifications in business administration, a milestone for many who had never before accessed accredited learning.

The team diligently tracks attendance, participation, and programme outcomes through registers and evaluation forms, but defines success in broader, communal terms. For founder Connie, impact is "doing something that's going to benefit a collective of individuals, and the results should be seen." This philosophy is evident in the ripple effect of their work: youth who were once isolated or unemployed return as facilitators, actively engage in digital upskilling, or step into formal work placements, thereby modelling new possibilities for their peers and strengthening the entire community fabric.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration is the central operating principle and lifeline of Leratong Community Hub. The hub was incubated by the Makers Valley Partnership, with which it still shares co-working space, a practical example of leveraging existing resources to overcome the barrier of not having a dedicated office.

It builds deliberate, value-aligned partnerships for specific program needs: with Boston City Campus for learnership accreditation and facilitation, with libraries for children's literacy clubs and play-based learning, and with organisations like MITSa for youth initiatives. It adeptly used WhatsApp and peer networks to build engagement, demonstrating resourcefulness. Its participation in formal networks provides a platform for cross-learning and collective strategy-building. The hub carefully selects partners based on aligned focus, assessing mutual strengths and weaknesses to ensure each collaboration fills a critical gap, whether it's accreditation, space, or specific expertise.

## INNOVATION

The hub's work offers several key innovative insights. Firstly, it validates lived experience as a legitimate and powerful tool for programme design and leadership. Secondly, it has demonstrated that impact does not require owned buildings, but rather depends on the quality of relationships, resourcefulness, and the strategic use of shared

community infrastructure.

Thirdly, it operationalises the principle that youth are co-creators, not mere recipients, embedding young people in program design and using their input to shape initiatives. Finally, its model shows that momentum comes from partnership, not perfection. By leaning on partner venues, resources, and networks for recruitment and delivery, it has been able to move quickly, adapt to challenges like COVID-19 by shifting to digital tools, and remain agile even with limited direct resources.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Leratong's model is inherently lightweight, adaptable, and designed for organic replication. By embedding its work within existing community infrastructure (libraries, parks, aftercare programs and partner offices) avoids the high overhead of new builds while maximising community reach. Its scaling philosophy is rooted in fostering community ownership and decentralised networks.

Its flagship Libraries and Parks Initiative in QwaQwa epitomises this long-term vision: transforming underutilised or non-existent public spaces into dynamic engines of learning, connection, and play. Financial sustainability is thoughtfully structured through a diversified funding base, with different funders supporting different programme components according to their interests. It also generates revenue through facilitation fees from learnership partnerships and strategic recruitment services. The hub's journey from an idea in 2021 to a growing entity demonstrates that with a clear vision, deep community roots, and a collaborative ethos, scalable impact is built through shared effort, not isolated struggle.

# Maths Centre Incorporating Sciences

**Base:** Johannesburg (Head Office)

**Operational Area:** All provinces

## CHALLENGE

The centre emerged as a direct and determined response to the deep-rooted, systemic challenges crippling mathematics and science education in South Africa. For decades, a vast number of learners have developed a toxic association with mathematics, linking it primarily with fear, anxiety, and a sense of intellectual exclusion.

This is particularly acute for learners from historically disadvantaged and under-resourced backgrounds, for whom the subject has consistently acted as a formidable barrier to academic and career advancement. The founder's own journey led her to question why a subject she describes as the "language of the mind" felt so deliberately inaccessible and intimidating to most South African children. Over the years, the centre observed how small, unaddressed learning gaps in the foundational years snowball over time into an insurmountable academic crisis by matric.

## SOLUTION

To counter these multifaceted challenges, the centre has painstakingly developed a multi-layered, sophisticated approach to fundamentally reimagine how mathematics is taught, perceived, and ultimately understood. At the very core of its philosophy is an unshakeable belief that every single learner possesses the capacity to succeed in mathematics if provided with the correct learning environment – one that is simultaneously rooted in compassionate support and rigorous intellectual discipline.

The centre's interventions are strategically designed to stretch across the entire schooling journey. The process begins with the early and accurate identification of specific learning gaps. Once these gaps are made visible and understood, educators can then strategically scaffold learners' understanding, patiently and systematically rebuilding both competence and confidence.

The centre's work, however, extends far beyond technical curriculum support and remediation to include advocacy campaigns, a robust teacher development model, and support for different academic and career pathways.

## IMPACT

The centre defines and measures its impact primarily through tangible, observable shifts at the individual learner level. It conducts regular, diagnostic school-based assessments to meticulously understand and then strategically close individual and collective learning gaps. One of its most significant and telling indicators of long-term success is whether learners voluntarily choose to stay on in the demanding fields of mathematics and physical science beyond the compulsory Grade 10 level.

Beyond the crucial academic results and subject choices, the centre is deeply invested in the more subtle but equally vital question of how learners begin to relate to the subject emotionally and intellectually – whether they start to see mathematics as a language of logic and a tool for personal and professional empowerment. Its impact also intentionally ripples outwards to support teachers and influence methodologies in partner schools.

## COLLABORATION

The centre understands that educational transformation cannot be achieved alone, and therefore operates through a carefully cultivated network of partners, encompassing public schools, parent bodies, and other education-focused organisations. Its approach to partnership is characteristically thoughtful and strategic; every potential collaboration undergoes a careful governance and value-review process to ensure a strong alignment with the centre's core mission.

Within this collaborative framework, parents and teachers are not seen as peripheral add-ons, but are treated as essential, core stakeholders in the educational process. The centre also pays close strategic attention to the critical question of what happens to learners after they exit their specific programmes, constantly asking how they can best plug their learners into the broader education and employment ecosystems.

## INNOVATION

One of the most powerful and innovative insights from the centre's long journey is its philosophical reconception of mathematics itself. It professes and demonstrates that mathematics is a "language not just of numbers, but of life, logic, and communication". This reframing is revolutionary; it means that teaching this subject effectively requires as much emotional intelligence, creativity, and communicative skill as it does technical mathematical knowledge.

The organisation's documented success stems from this innovative balance of unwavering academic rigour with profound human compassion. It has operationalised the learning that love and discipline are not opposites, but are necessary, synergistic partners in effective education. Its work also consistently reinforces the innovative idea that educational flexibility is paramount, recognising that not every learner thinks, learns, or aspires in the same way.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The centre is actively and ambitiously pursuing scale through a powerful combination of a compelling vision, strategic infrastructure development, and purposeful partnership. The proposed national STEM Centre represents the pinnacle of this scaling strategy, a visionary project designed to provide a hybrid of both digital and physical learner and teacher support, thereby allowing the organisation to significantly expand its national footprint without losing its learner-focused ethos.

It continues to proactively engage provincial education departments as a core part of its long-term scaling strategy. The sustainability of its model is supported by a mixed-funding economy that includes strategic government partnerships, a growing public advocacy presence, and, most importantly, the deep, earned trust of the communities and schools it serves.

# Mintor

**Base:** (Digital/Remote)

**Operational Area:** Nationally

## CHALLENGE

When Leanne Viviers returned to South Africa after years of working in global development, she was determined to contribute to change at home. She was consistently drawn to the most intimate and stubborn challenge: the vast gap between the country's youth and meaningful employment opportunities. She quickly observed that the usual systems were failing. Job portals, email applications, and internet cafés were not meeting young people where they were. The problem of youth unemployment was not solely a lack of jobs; it was equally a crisis of access.

For those living in townships and underserved communities, prohibitive data costs, unaffordable travel expenses, and long queues made traditional job-seeking almost impossible. A pivotal moment came in 2017 when, out of sheer frustration, Viviers circulated a job advert via WhatsApp and received an overwhelming response overnight, revealing a powerful, untapped channel for connection.

## SOLUTION

This simple experiment sparked the creation of Mintor, a mobile-first platform that uses chatbots and WhatsApp to provide comprehensive job-seeking support to young people. Today, Mintor enables youth to build CVs, prepare for interviews, explore career options, and apply for jobs directly through the WhatsApp platform they already use daily. This requires no visits to internet cafés, no printing of paper CVs, and no downloading of additional apps. The system is designed for intuitive, step-by-step interaction; a young person answers questions in a chat, and a polished CV is generated and sent back to them immediately.

They can also complete screening assessments and psychometric-style skills tests that help identify their strengths and job compatibility, alongside training modules on soft skills and interview readiness.

For companies, Mintor solves the parallel problem of efficiently sifting through high volumes of applications to identify the best-fit candidates. Its screening tools have been shown to drastically reduce mismatches. The core innovation, however, was a fundamental shift from waiting for young people to come to them, to proactively showing up for youth on their own terms.

## IMPACT

Mintor's impact is dual-faceted, creating value for both job seekers and employers. For young people, the platform dramatically lowers the cost and complexity of job-seeking. Instead of spending money on printing and transport for uncertain outcomes, they can apply for jobs from their phone for just a few cents in data. In partnership with Youth Capital, Mintor found its service reduced job-seeking costs by up to 90%. For employers, the key impact is radically improved retention. Businesses using Mintor's screening tools report an up to 70% improvement in retention rates for entry-level roles, demonstrating that the right candidates are being matched with the right opportunities. Mintor also embeds feedback loops through in-platform surveys, giving users a direct voice in shaping the evolution of the service.

## COLLABORATION

Mintor's growth strategy is fundamentally built on collaboration. On the user-facing end, they partner with youth-serving NGOs, which introduce the platform to their networks free of charge, as part of Mintor's give-back model. On the revenue-generating end, Mintor licenses its proven technology to organisations seeking to improve their own systems, from corporate HR teams to non-profits. These licensing partnerships sustain Mintor's business model while enabling other entities to enhance their effectiveness. The overarching goal is to make it easy for others to plug in and leverage what is already working effectively.

## INNOVATION

Mintor's story underscores that innovation often lies not in new inventions, but in the clever repurposing of existing, ubiquitous technology. The key was listening and adapting. As Viviers states, "We stopped expecting young people to come to us. Instead, we figured out how to meet them where they already are."

Another critical insight is the discipline to remain practical. The team constantly questions whether a new feature genuinely solves the problem better, ensuring the platform remains lean, intuitive, and grounded in real user needs, avoiding "tech for tech's sake". This culture of flexibility and shared learning is institutionalised within the team.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Mintor has achieved growth without external investors, a deliberate choice to maintain control and purpose. It started with sweat equity and early revenue from recruitment services, later evolving into a sustainable tech licensing business. Its scalability is powered by two core features: unparalleled accessibility, as it is built on the WhatsApp platform already used by millions, and inherent replicability. This allows Mintor to scale horizontally through networks and partnerships rather than through building a large, centralised organisation. While there is still a long way to go in a country where digital access remains uneven, Mintor has demonstrably shown that with the right insight and the right tool, it is possible to unlock doors that were previously closed for millions of young South Africans.

# Pedal For Good

**Base:** Somerset West Area, Cape Town

**Operational Area:** Somerset West Area, Macassar, Strand, Jamestown (near Stellenbosch)

## CHALLENGE

Pedal For good was founded by Jaco van der Linde, who identified a profound gap in services for at-risk youth, particularly children aged 10 to 13 affected by trauma, poverty, neglect, and emerging mental health challenges. He observed that traditional after-school and sports programmes often failed to meaningfully reach or engage this specific demographic.

There was an urgent and unmet need for an innovative, community-rooted intervention that could effectively foster resilience, create a vital sense of belonging, and provide essential emotional and psychological support, while also connecting participants to longer-term pathways in education, employment, and personal growth. The challenge was to design an intervention that could break through the barriers of disengagement and trauma to reach these vulnerable children.

## SOLUTION

Pedal for good unique response was to create a cycling-based therapeutic intervention, often referred to as "Trail Therapy". The initiative uses mountain biking as its core engagement tool, layered with structured support components to create a holistic developmental experience. These components include weekly sessions run throughout the academic year, mindfulness practices such as breathing exercises and gratitude reflection, mentorship by local youth who share lived experiences with the participants, and curriculum-based group activities designed to encourage psychosocial development and the safety of routine.

The programme is delivered through a school-referral model, where teachers identify children at risk of dropping out or disengaging due to social or emotional hardship. Crucially, the organisation also invests significant effort in building trust with parents and caregivers through community events and direct engagement, consciously reframing the programme not as a competitive sport, but as a safe, holistic developmental space focused on well-being.

## IMPACT

From its initial pilot with 20 learners in 2021, Pedal for good has demonstrated steady and intentional growth, now reaching 120 children annually across two primary sites. The organisation has refined a scaffolded curriculum that skilfully blends physical movement, mental health principles, and mentorship. It maintains a strong retention rate and has begun systematically measuring impact through both baseline and endline evaluations, as well as standardised parent feedback tools.

This represents a significant maturation from an idea sparked during the founder's own mental health journey to a model now grounded in community practice and growing evidence. Substantial effort has also been directed towards building operational capacity, including expanding the staff team and developing critical infrastructure.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration is a fundamental underpinning of the Pedal for good model. It specifically focuses on several layers of partnership. School partnerships are essential for participant referrals and ensuring programme continuity. Donor relationships span individual philanthropists, corporate funders, and local foundations. International networks have provided valuable insights that helped shape the organisation's therapeutic approach and deepen its capacity for mental health work.

Perhaps most importantly, local community involvement is central; engaging parents and piloting micro-enterprise concepts are becoming integrated into its long-term sustainability strategy. The team is also deeply invested in developing its coaches, many of whom are recruited from the same under-resourced contexts as the youth they mentor.

## INNOVATION

The innovator's journey offers several key insights. Firstly, it shows that social innovation is inherently adaptive, often emerging from lived experience and constant iteration rather than from a grand, pre-conceived design. Secondly, the bicycle is not merely a tool for exercise, but a potent conduit for healing, learning, and fostering a sense of belonging. Thirdly, building community trust and securing parental buy-in are vital. A fourth insight is that mental health is not a separate component but is foundational to all aspects of development. Finally, sustainability itself is recognised as a creative act, requiring strategic branding, compelling storytelling, and systems-thinking alongside direct service delivery.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Pedal for good is entering a strategic phase of consolidation and refinement. While its model has successfully doubled in scale year-over-year, the organisation is intentionally slowing growth to focus on systematisation, curriculum development, and strengthening internal capacity. Future plans include piloting two distinct delivery models: one based on long-term weekly engagement for depth, and another offering intensive shorter-term cohorts to test reach.

The organisation is also developing a comprehensive "playbook" to facilitate replication, potentially through a train-the-facilitator model. To diversify income, it is exploring revenue from branded merchandise, circular economy activities, and potential fee-based offerings for more resourced communities. With a strong vision and growing partnerships, Pedal Project is well positioned to influence how youth mental health is approached through movement and mentorship.



# SOS Children's Villages South Africa

**Base:** Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha), Sekhukhune, Mathanjana, Nelspruit, Mamelodi, Rustenburg, Makeneng (QwaQwa), Mthatha, Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town, Ennerdale.

**Operational Area:** Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, North West, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape

## CHALLENGE

SOS Children's Villages, with its long and deep history of working with vulnerable children and youth, identified a set of deeply rooted and interconnected social challenges within the South African communities it serves. These challenges create a complex web of disadvantage that is difficult to escape. They include persistently high levels of child poverty, impacting nutrition, health, and access to basic resources; the painful reality of family separation and breakdown; alarmingly high youth unemployment rates that leave even qualified young people in a state of limbo; and a critically limited availability of formal safeguarding and protective services for vulnerable children and youth, a gap that is especially pronounced and dangerous in remote rural areas.

For many of the young people transitioning out of the SOS care system or participating in its community-based programmes, the path to independence was fraught with obstacles. They frequently lacked access to practical employability training, consistent and caring mentorship, or clear, navigable pathways to further education, vocational training, or sustainable livelihood opportunities. Historically, many well-meaning interventions were designed and implemented in a top-down manner, failing to reflect the authentic voices and lived realities of the youth.

## SOLUTION

To address this complex challenge with greater effectiveness and respect, SOS Children's Villages fundamentally redesigned its approach, developing a comprehensive youth development and employability programme that is explicitly anchored in the twin pillars of deep community partnership and authentic youth participation. This approach is now actively implemented across multiple South African provinces.

The methodology centrally involves collaborative engagement with a wide range of local actors, including community-based organisations, caregivers, school leadership, and, most importantly, formally constituted youth forums. The specific programmes offered are not standardised packages but are dynamically informed by localised needs analyses, targeted focus groups, and an ongoing, structured dialogue with the young people and their families.

The resulting offering is intentionally wide-ranging and adaptive, designed to meet youth where they are. It includes tailored employability training, life skills development, one-on-one and group mentorship, and practical business incubation

support. A key feature is the collaborative process where youth work directly alongside dedicated SOS staff members to co-develop personalised development plans that guide each young person's unique journey.

## IMPACT

The organisation defines its impact not through simplistic, aggregated numbers, but through tangible, meaningful improvements in the daily lives and long-term prospects of the young people it serves. This is measured by tracking change at the individual level, focusing on whether a specific young person has gained access to a stable income, secured decent employment, entered a further education and training programme, or achieved greater personal and financial stability. Since implementing a targeted driver's licence support initiative, for example, a critical differentiator in the South African job market, more than 800 young people have been supported, dramatically exceeding the initial goal.

In another concrete example, youth were supported to gain specialised heavy-duty and forklift licences, effectively opening doors into high-demand industries. Impact is continuously tracked through a mix of youth surveys, in-depth focus groups, and regular feedback sessions that create accountability. To add a layer of rigorous external validation, the organisation has also partnered with an external research institute to assess long-term outcomes such as employment trajectories and personal development.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration is not an add-on but a central, non-negotiable element of the SOS model for achieving sustainable impact. The organisation works closely and consistently with a wide array of local schools, community-based organisations, and civil society forums to ensure its programmes are not only locally relevant but also widely accessible and destigmatised.

It maintains a careful, principles-led approach to selecting its partners, choosing consciously to work only with organisations and entities whose operational practices and ethical standards align closely with its own stringent safeguarding policies and child protection values. This unwavering integrity has been instrumental in building and maintaining deep trust within the communities it serves and among the youth participants.

Digital platforms are leveraged extensively to keep lines of communication open and responsive between field staff and the young people. Parents and caregivers are also actively involved as key

partners, reflecting a commitment to ubuntu and building stronger communities from within.

## INNOVATION

A defining, hard-won insight from SOS's ongoing journey is that youth-led design is not merely a progressive ideal but an absolute practical essential for success and sustainability. The organisation learnt this through direct experience; earlier attempts to implement well-funded but largely donor-prescribed projects frequently faltered, hampered by a fundamental lack of youth ownership and contextual relevance.

By stark contrast, initiatives that emerged organically through processes of active listening, genuine co-creation, and ongoing, iterative feedback with the youth have consistently demonstrated stronger participant uptake, deeper, more meaningful impact, and greater prospects for long-term sustainability.

The organisation has therefore learnt to cultivate a stance of operational flexibility, consciously adapting delivery methods, timing, and content to fit the complex and often unpredictable realities of young people's lives. Its demonstrated willingness to critically interrogate its own practices, through research and community dialogue, has become a key engine of its innovation.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

SOS Children's Villages already operates at a significant scale across multiple South African provinces and continues to grow its footprint thoughtfully, primarily through the strategic cultivation of local partnerships and the deliberate fostering of deep community buy-in, which acts as the bedrock for lasting impact. Its sustainability model is intentionally multi-pronged, moving beyond traditional donor reliance. A team of dedicated fundraisers works strategically to ensure performance-linked resource mobilisation.

In addition, community-facing initiatives such as mall-based donation campaigns and partnerships with corporate social investment programmes serve to diversify income streams, while also broadening public visibility and support for their cause.

Perhaps most importantly for long-term sustainability, the organisation actively encourages and facilitates self-sufficiency among the youth and families it serves through mentoring and direct support for small-scale, income-generating projects. This helps foster long-term economic stability that can persist well beyond the typical cycles of external donor funding.

# Think Ahead Transformation Academy

**Base:** Stellenbosch, Western Cape & Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape

**Operational Area:** Western Cape & Eastern Cape

## CHALLENGE

Think Ahead Transformation Academy was established to counter a range of persistent challenges affecting the development of young people in South Africa. A critical issue was that many youth, including university graduates, were making pivotal academic and career choices without a deep understanding of their own motivations, strengths, or the long-term implications of their decisions. The widespread absence of meaningful career guidance in schools and communities often left young people disoriented and adrift, resulting in profound dissatisfaction, mental health struggles, and eventual disengagement.

The founder's personal experience as a teenage mother further exposed the severe risks associated with limited life planning and highlighted the urgent need for preventive interventions that support the development of long-term vision and break intergenerational cycles of dependency. The academy also identified a broader systemic failure: an education system focused overwhelmingly on short-term performance metrics at the expense of fostering essential self-awareness, critical thinking, and sustained personal development.

## SOLUTION

Think Ahead Transformation Academy offers a holistic, future-focused programme designed to equip youth with the tools, mindsets, and mentorship they need to make intentional life decisions. At its core is a journey-based approach to career guidance, mentoring young people over an extended period rather than through one-off, superficial interventions.

The academy places a strong emphasis on helping youth understand their fundamental "why", encouraging them to deeply explore and question their choices in education, work, and life to ensure these decisions align with their core values and authentic aspirations. This is operationalised through workshops, career open days, and practical exposure to diverse professions, which demystify various pathways and provide crucial real-world insight.

Recognising that context is everything, the model actively involves parents in the process and works to foster community-based support systems around each young person. With a dual focus on education and entrepreneurship, the programme intentionally nurtures both academic success and income-generating potential, providing a more resilient foundation for the future.

## IMPACT

The academy's immersive approach has led to measurable and visible impact in the lives of its participants. Young people consistently report increased clarity, confidence, and intentionality in their choices, whether they are pursuing higher education, starting a business, or entering the workforce.

The programme's strong preventive focus has also contributed to a noticeable reduction in early pregnancies among participants, who demonstrate greater long-term vision and personal resilience. Significant mental health benefits are evident, with involved youth showing reduced anxiety and confusion about their futures, leading to improved overall emotional well-being. The sustained, journey-based mentorship ensures that participants remain grounded in their goals and can adapt their plans as circumstances shift.

As more young people learn to think critically and plan ahead, a positive ripple effect is created within their communities, where siblings and peers also begin to envision and pursue more intentional futures for themselves.

## COLLABORATION

Think Ahead Transformation Academy deeply understands the power of collective support and has therefore built a robust network of partnerships to enhance its offering. It collaborates with schools, universities, and community organisations to run career open days and interactive workshops. It also proactively engages mentors from diverse professional fields to bring authentic, real-world perspectives directly into the programme. Importantly, parents are not peripheral but are intentionally included in the process, helping to create a consistent and holistic support structure around each young person. By valuing community input and maintaining a collaborative ethos, the academy ensures its programmes remain responsive, contextually relevant, and strengthened by the shared wisdom of its partners.

## INNOVATION

At the heart of the academy's work is the powerful belief that lived experience is a legitimate and potent driver of social innovation. The founder's own journey – from teenage motherhood to community leader – grounds the work in deep empathy and authentic purpose. A core philosophical innovation is the cultivation of critical thinking, ignited by the simple but transformative question: "Why?"

Encouraging youth to continuously interrogate their motivations builds both personal agency and profound self-awareness. Another key insight is the view that meaningful career guidance is not a single event, but a sustained journey – one that requires trusted mentorship, deep contextual understanding, and time to develop. The founder also emphasises the profound importance of recognising each young person's name, story, and unique identity as essential to building dignity, connection, and sustainable change.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The academy is well positioned for scale, with a clear and replicable model anchored in mentorship, contextual understanding, and community engagement. Its sustainability strategy is multi-pronged, including the securing of grants, the formation of strategic partnerships, and the exploration of fee-for-service offerings such as custom workshops for schools or corporates. There are also concrete plans to expand reach through digital platforms and by training an expanded corps of mentors to support more youth across different geographical communities.

The model's inherent flexibility allows it to be adapted for various age groups and geographies, particularly in areas where traditional career guidance structures are absent or ineffective. By investing in local leadership and prioritising genuine community ownership, Think Ahead Transformation Academy is laying a strong foundation for deep, long-term impact that is designed to grow well beyond its initial footprint.

# Umthombo Wempilo

**Base:** Bertha House, Mowbray, Cape Town

**Operational Area:** Cape Town (Khayelitsha, Philippi)

## CHALLENGE

Umthombo Wempilo emerged as a direct response to the multifaceted issues experienced by young people and families in Khayelitsha and Philippi in the Western Cape, where communities face limited access to integrated educational support, psychosocial services, and reliable healthcare. The team observed that young people's efforts were consistently undermined by a complex web of structural barriers, including language difficulties in schools, poor nutrition, and a lack of basic necessities like school uniforms and safe study spaces.

Upon deeper analysis, it found that for adolescent girls and young women, existing interventions often focused narrowly on gender-based violence, while the struggles of older women, especially single mothers, remained largely overlooked. Concurrently, it identified that the health needs of men were routinely marginalised, with clinic environments and services being predominantly tailored towards women. These fragmented and siloed systems had created significant gaps in how individuals and families were holistically supported.

## SOLUTION

Umthombo Wempilo takes a holistic, community-rooted approach that intentionally integrates educational, psychosocial, and health-focused support. Its flagship programme, Siyakhathala, blends academic tutoring with personal development for high school learners, simultaneously addressing both scholastic and emotional well-being. Its women's empowerment initiative, Imasakane, creates safe, affirming spaces for women to share experiences, build collective resilience, and access practical resources.

In parallel, its men's health advocacy work directly confronts stigma and exclusion by promoting male-friendly healthcare environments and actively encouraging men to engage with reproductive and mental health services.

Dialogue circles for youth enable both boys and girls to discuss sensitive issues in a supportive setting, fostering a sense of collective responsibility. What fundamentally sets Umthombo apart is its foundation in lived experience; it was created by a family with a long-standing, deep commitment to community development, shaping a response that is perceived as local, trusted, and deeply personal by those it serves.

## IMPACT

The impact of Umthombo Wempilo is intentionally multidimensional. For young learners in the Siyakhathala programme, outcomes include improved academic performance and greater emotional resilience. Women involved in Imasakane report increased confidence, stronger peer solidarity, and access to vital support networks that help them manage daily pressures and family responsibilities. Through persistent advocacy, there are early but promising signs of change in local clinics, which have begun to adapt practices to better accommodate men – a vital step towards truly inclusive healthcare.

The stress of the COVID-19 pandemic tested the organisation's adaptability, and it responded effectively by integrating technology and remote care into its services, ensuring continuity of support during crisis. Across all interventions, success is measured not just by numbers reached but by tangible transformation: youth who successfully complete school, families that feel more secure and supported, and individuals who reclaim a sense of agency over their own futures.

## COLLABORATION

Umthombo Wempilo thrives on deliberate, cross-sector collaboration. It works closely with schools, clinics, local leaders, and families to ensure its offerings are responsive and firmly embedded within the community fabric. Academic partnerships with institutions like the University of Stellenbosch and University of Cape Town provide valuable research collaboration and external validation of its work. Relationships with government clinics and international funders bolster its practical service delivery capacity.

Importantly, the organisation nurtures these not as transactional arrangements, but as relationships rooted in mutual trust and a deeply aligned vision. Whether facilitating parent-teacher dialogues or co-hosting health workshops with local clinics, Umthombo Wempilo ensures that all stakeholders feel like integral parts of the work, not peripheral additions.

## INNOVATION

The founders' central, innovative belief is that care must be integrated, not compartmentalised. This philosophy informs every programme they offer. Rather than treating psychosocial support, education, and health as separate silos, Umthombo Wempilo recognises the critical intersections between these areas and designs its interventions accordingly. Lived experience and authentic connection to the community guide its methods; the community knows the organisation, trusts it, and grows with it.

It has also learnt the profound importance of naming. Its programme names, Siyakhathala ("We Care") and Imasakane ("Let Us Build Each Other"), are not mere titles but public declarations of a philosophical commitment. These programmes are fundamentally about nurturing human potential, restoring dignity, and reinforcing the principle that everyone, regardless of background or identity, deserves a full opportunity to thrive.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

With active sites already operating across Philippi and Khayelitsha, Umthombo Wempilo has demonstrated its ability to work effectively across diverse community contexts within the Cape Flats. Its funding model is diversified, drawing on government, donor, and community resources, though achieving long-term financial sustainability remains an ongoing pursuit.

Its vision for scale includes a careful expansion to new communities while maintaining a core commitment to being responsive to local needs and dynamics. By focusing on community ownership, organisational adaptability, and strategic partnerships, it is building a resilient ecosystem capable of supporting long-term impact. Its advocacy efforts, particularly in reshaping clinic design and influencing policy around men's health, hold the potential for systemic impact far beyond its immediate geographical reach. Umthombo Wempilo is therefore not merely a service delivery organisation; it is actively reimagining and modelling how holistic, inclusive community health and development can be authentically achieved.

# YearBeyond

**Base:** Cape Town, Western Cape

**Operational Area:** Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces

## CHALLENGE

YearBeyond was launched as a direct, systemic response to the stark and interconnected realities confronting a generation of young people in post-apartheid South Africa. The country grapples with one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world, creating a pervasive sense of despair and a lack of viable pathways to a dignified livelihood.

Coupled with this economic exclusion is a profound social deficit: many young people report a lack of a sense of belonging, a feeling of being unmoored from their communities, and an absence of a clear, positive purpose in life.

Compounding these issues are the significant educational deficits inherited from a struggling public schooling system, which leaves thousands of youth without the foundational literacy, numeracy, or digital skills required to transition successfully into further study or meaningful work. The programme's founders also note that for many children, the challenges start even earlier, growing up without consistent, caring adult figures or safe spaces, exacerbating the educational barriers and creating a dual crisis for both younger and older youth.

## SOLUTION

YearBeyond's powerful and innovative approach is centred on a dual-beneficiary model that creates a virtuous cycle of development. First, the programme proactively recruits, rigorously trains, and comprehensively supports young people (typically aged 18 to 25) to serve as "near-peer mentors". This year of service is designed as a structured bridging year, focused on intensive work readiness, personal self-development, and the acquisition of practical experience. Core operational components include the provision of a dedicated mentor for each young person, access to a customised online learning platform, and the strategic use of behavioural nudges to reinforce positive habits.

These now trained and supported young people then form the frontline of the programme's delivery, going into under-resourced schools and early childhood development settings to provide educational, psychosocial, and developmental support to the next generation of learners. In practice, the YeBoneers lead a range of activities, from facilitating literacy and numeracy clubs to guiding psychosocial life skills sessions, thereby building caring, consistent relationships with learners while simultaneously gaining invaluable work experience themselves.

## IMPACT

YearBeyond defines and measures its impact with precision at two distinct but interconnected levels. At the first level, the direct impact is on the young YeBoneers themselves. They develop a suite of practical skills, build professional and social networks, gain measurable confidence, and significantly enhance their employability. Quantifiable data shows that around 70% of YeBoneers remain economically active after their year of service, and they are more likely to be engaged in civic activities.

At the second level, the children and learners supported by these trained youth experience their own set of positive outcomes, including improved literacy levels, greater participation in class, enhanced self-esteem, and a documented reduction in risk-taking behaviours. Annually, over 30 000 children are directly engaged and supported through this model. Two significant unplanned impacts have emerged: the YeBoneers are being trained to be active, engaged caregivers who understand the importance of reading, and the programme is creating a powerful pipeline of passionate educators and community workers.

## COLLABORATION

A core, defining feature of YearBeyond is its inherently collaborative, systems-focused delivery model, which avoids creating a monolithic, centralised organisation. Through a sophisticated social franchise structure, YearBeyond works with a network of over 30 experienced non-governmental organisations and partnerships with 20 municipalities to co-deliver its programmes on the ground. This ensures deep local ownership and roots the intervention firmly within existing community realities and structures.

Partner selection follows a rigorous set of criteria, and YearBeyond provides standardised onboarding, high-quality training, and ongoing support. A key innovation is the use of blended finance to ensure shared risk and collective investment. Implementing partners are required to contribute their own resources alongside funding from government, philanthropic donors, and corporate partners. This co-investment model fosters a deep sense of shared commitment and accountability.

## INNOVATION

YearBeyond's extensive experience provides a powerful, evidence-based demonstration of how strategically investing in young people can act as a force multiplier for broader community impact. By providing these youth with skills, a sense of purpose, and a renewed sense of hope, YearBeyond not only supports their individual pathways into work and education, but also directly harnesses their energy and potential to extend a positive, caring influence to thousands of younger children.

Its embedded culture of experimentation and learning, supported by a formalised Action Learning Cycle, demonstrates the organisational power of continuous listening, adaptation, and evidence-based improvement. YearBeyond also serves as a powerful case study in the value of large-scale coalition-building, successfully mobilising a diverse array of partners under a unified social franchise structure to share ownership while delivering locally relevant programming.

## SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

YearBeyond's impressive growth trajectory, from a small pilot to a massive national programme engaging over 4 000 young people annually, is grounded in a deliberate strategy built on strong partnerships, strategic funding, and the development of robust, replicable systems. Strategic digitisation and a "train-the-trainer" approach have enabled scalable delivery without requiring a heavily centralised bureaucracy.

Innovative operational models, such as a hub-and-spoke system for well-being services, help YearBeyond scale its reach and depth while remaining administratively lean. The programme's sustainability is reinforced through multiple, diversified streams: the blended finance model shares the cost burden; the social franchising structure embeds the programme within resilient local organisations; and the development of an internal academy is itself becoming an income-generating entity. By continuing to adapt and invest in young people as catalysts, YearBeyond has positioned itself as a powerful, scalable driver of systemic youth development.



CHANGE MAKERS

# KEY LESSONS

South Africa's youth development challenge demands a fundamental change. These lessons, from practitioners' interviews and research, explain the guiding principles of successful initiatives.

## 1. SUPPORT THE WHOLE PERSON

Tackling youth unemployment or educational gaps in isolation is an inadequate strategy. Young people navigate a complex web of challenges, including mental health struggles, income pressures, and social expectations. Real impact is achieved only when programmes support the whole person – not just the CV. This gives rise to entities that offer a mix of learning, creative pursuits, mental health aid, and chances for financial growth.

*Young people needed to heal in order to tap into their creativity and think quality thoughts... all that judgment and pressure and stress... was preventing them from really tapping into the frontal cortex; they were surviving, functioning from survival brain and weren't thinking well. So we realised young people need to feel safe and not feel judged in order to tap into innovative thinking.*

**Emily Rudolph, Amathuba Collective**

## 2. YOUTH ARE PARTNERS

A critical principle for relevance and impact is that youth are not merely beneficiaries, but essential partners. If young people are not involved in shaping a programme, it is likely to miss critical elements. This ethos of co-creation was a recurring

*We don't design for youth; we design with them. They're in the room, making the decisions*

**Pam Mgayi, Girls Mission Camps**



### 3. MENTAL HEALTH IS FOUNDATIONAL

Mental health is key. It is the foundation on which everything else rests. Repeatedly, interviews and research have shown that without emotional safety, other actions are unsuccessful. The link between well-being and the ability to learn is repeatedly emphasised.

*I looked at our population, our social issues... people economically displaced... and I looked at the state of leadership... It filters through every fabric of society, from politics to communities right down into the family unit... We have to be part of a solution that responds to developing our people as far as entrepreneurship and leadership is concerned, but you cannot build that on a fractured foundation. You have to heal the person first.*

**Kwazini Zulu, Kulisha Consulting**



### 4. THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO STAY AFLOAT

Financial sustainability beyond short-term grants is crucial. Organisations are finding creative, values-aligned ways to generate revenue.

*We have a multi-pronged approach... We also realised that we can't help the majority out there if we don't find a way to come to them. And we figured out the way to do so by meeting them in the messaging apps that they will or the communication channels that they did have access to and already were in.*

**Leanne Viviers, Mintor**



### 5. SCALING ISN'T JUST SIZE, IT'S INFLUENCE

The concept of growth is being redefined. Scaling is understood not just as increasing size, but as expanding influence.

*We try and by all means to be visible... We have like programs like your protective behaviour. We send young people from each of the schools to be trained, and after being trained, they come and train their peers. That's how we are scaling up.*

**Peter Kotlolo, SOS Children's Villages**



### 6. COLLABORATION, COLLABORATION, COLLABORATION

You have probably heard this before, but effective partnerships must be substantive. Collaboration requires time, trust, and a commitment to shared values.

*We don't specialise in everything. We partnered with IM Foundation, pads, teach them how to use sanitary towels... It's also about improving our own knowledge.*

**Pam Mgyai, Girls Mission Camps**



## 7. SUCCESS CAN BE MEASURED IN DIFFERENT WAYS

A critical lesson involves re-evaluating success, and focusing on qualitative information. The most effective organisations measure what matters, not just what is easy to count.

*“My own definition of impact is doing something that's gonna benefit a collective of individuals, you know, and the results should be seen. They should be noticed after that has been done... We measure our impact with the end results.”*

**Connie Mcira, Leratong Community Hub**



## 8. INNOVATION COMES IN MANY FORMS

Finally, it is evident that innovation comes in many forms. It is often about fresh approaches through listening and adaptation.

*The organisation, when we started... was never about us being millionaires, but it was about us trying to contribute to the society... We don't want to be as if there's money there... We never want to put ourselves in a situation whereby we neglect the concept which we are having.*

**Comfort Zisongo, Funda Nathi Foundation**



# WAY FORWARD

The goal of this review is to promote and support meaningful innovation in the youth development sector. The lessons outlined above provide a framework for action for various actors within the ecosystem.

**For NGOs and youth development practitioners,** these criteria offer a lens through which to evaluate their work. They should be applied to assess whether programmes tackle a true social requirement in a manner that is sustainable and collaborative. This framework can be used in team reflections, strategy sessions, and when planning new initiatives to strengthen their offerings.

**For social entrepreneurs,** this framework provides a vital reality check. It underscores that innovation is not about novelty for its own sake, but about solving real problems in ways that are people-centred and built to last. Entrepreneurs should use it to assess whether their solution fills a genuine gap, and to think about scalability not merely as expansion, but as influence and shared learning.

**For government innovators,** these criteria can serve as a tool to identify and support effective local efforts. They should be applied when evaluating



proposals, drafting youth **policy**, or establishing public-private partnerships. The focus must be on channelling support towards practical, locally grounded solutions that communities trust and that young people are actively shaping.

**For funders and impact investors,** this framework provides a common language that moves beyond simplistic output metrics to focus on long-term relevance, integrity, and adaptability. It is a call to fund organisations that are not only doing good work but are doing it in a socially innovative way. This requires prioritising flexibility, supporting organisations to iterate and adapt, and recognising the critical importance of funding collaborative activities as core operational costs.

# CONCLUSION

The organisations profiled in this publication play a vital role in mitigating pressing challenges within the youth development sector in South Africa. However, their impact remains constrained by deeper structural forces. As social justice advocates, there is a need to confront both current problems and the systemic causes that marginalise young people, particularly societal structures that ignore past disadvantages.

Many young South Africans face barriers rooted in historical injustices, exclusion, and deliberate underdevelopment. When policies ignore this context, they risk reinforcing the very disparities they claim to address. True empowerment demands more than resilience from marginalised youth; it requires transforming the conditions that make such resilience necessary. The intention of this review is to share the stories of inspirational innovators who have developed solutions that are transforming the landscape for youth in South Africa. And just like them, we believe you can do the same.







## BERTHA CENTRE CONTACT DETAILS



9 Portswood Road, Green Point, Cape Town, South Africa



Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship



@BerthaCentre



Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship



[berthacentre.gsb@uct.ac.za](mailto:berthacentre.gsb@uct.ac.za)



<https://gsbberthacentre.uct.ac.za/>

