



Together For Women and Children At Risk

Annual Review 2021

March 2020 to February 2021



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.
African Proverb

A Message from the Executive Director



extraordinary

/ɪk'strɔːd(ə)n(ə)rɪ, ɛk'strɔːd(ə)n(ə)rɪ, ɛk'strə'wɔːdɪn(ə)rɪ/
adjective

1. **very unusual or remarkable.**
(Oxford Dictionary)

2020 was an extraordinary year in every sense of the word. The world faced a pandemic unprecedented in our lifetime. We also witnessed an extraordinary response to this pandemic and its impact.

In the face of immense suffering and difficulty we saw extraordinary outpourings of love, of resilience and of adaptability. Loss, hardship and lack was met with generosity, support and kindness.

"The time to build a network is always before you need one" (Douglas Conant)

As the incoming Executive Director on the 1st of March 2020 it was a privilege to work alongside Dee Moskoff, who is the Founder of Connect Network and fulfilled the role of Executive Director for 16 years. Working together with Dee during a thorough handover process for 3 months, it was a joy to join and witness the strength of a network that had painstakingly been built over a long period of time. Despite the turbulence that COVID-19 and a hard lockdown brought, we were able to use the existing network to swiftly mobilise supplies and relief to where they were needed. We honour and thank Dee for her commitment to the vulnerable in the City for all this time and wish her very well in her new adventures.

Central to the Connect Network Covid response was that we were rapidly able to identify organisations who were part of Connect Network's Safe Community strategy and who were accountable and committed to Child Protection. These organisations had completed Quality Improvement System training so we knew that resources were going into the capable hands of organisations who were trustworthy. Grants, food relief and blankets were all channelled into the Safe Communities. It also became quickly evident that children and women were more vulnerable in their homes during lockdown and when we continued with our Child Protection campaign, Child Protection training online and took part in Gender-based violence campaigns, network organisations were quick to participate and engage.

As the incoming Executive Director during particularly challenging times, it was incredible to work with committed and effective governing bodies, which are the Board and Non-Profit Company (NPC) members drawn from the communities we serve. To our Chairperson, Vaughan Stannard, and all the Board and NPC members, a huge thank you.

The handover process and achievements of the network during the past year would also simply not have been possible without our immensely capable Chief Finance Officer, Beverley Stoffberg, and the efficient admin staff, Priscilla Muller and Lindy Johnson. The support and guidance of our partner, Viva International, and in particular Mim Friday, has also been much valued and appreciated. And to all our partners who support the work of Connect, a massive thank you. Whether you have been journeying with us for a while or have newly joined us in this season, we thank you and appreciate you.

Looking forward to continuing travelling this road together.
Masihambisane


Grace Nkomo



A Message from the Chairperson

This year has been filled with many reasons to celebrate and of course, also some of the challenges we've all come to know about organisational life during the time of this coronavirus pandemic.

When 2020 started we had just appointed Mrs Grace Nkomo as our new Executive Director and today we celebrate that moment and the tremendous manner in which she has led the organisation through, what must be, one of the most challenging first years for any director! Grace has provided a courageous blend of leadership, innovation, wisdom and commitment. In this past year, along with her amazing staff team, she has ensured that the network is able to respond generously with Covid-relief throughout the city and has spearheaded the evolution of our Quality Improvement System (QIS) organisational equipping training onto an online platform. This has not only allowed organisations and churches to continue to receive training during lockdown, but has also made our training more accessible to smaller organisations in our Safe Communities. A special thanks to the QIS Online team for your creativity and perseverance through the remodelling process. Thus far we have managed to provide our Child Protection module online during this year. We are planning further online modules during 2021.

Of course, Connect is a network of many organisations and I would like to especially thank those organisations who form our NPC and lead the network. Providing guidance, context and direction and thereby serving and supporting other organisations beyond themselves in the City. To the Board, my sincere thanks for your wisdom and oversight. It is a pleasure to serve alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals.

To all our donors, without you we would not be able to celebrate the successes shared in this report. We thank you sincerely for your trust and support. And so we are grateful to God that we are able to celebrate another year of journeying towards a safer city for children and families.

Dr. Vaughan Stannard

Connect's Strategic Goals for 2020-2023

To promote the safety and well-being of children and to help families thrive in communities across Cape Town, through networking, capacity building, collaboration, and advocacy.

We Network

Central to the vision and mission of Connect Network is to bring organisations and individuals together with the purpose of uniting around the common cause of improving the lives of women and children. Individuals and organisations are provided with opportunities to meet to find synergies and ways to meaningfully move forward together. Although 2020 looked different to how it may have been planned and the manner that meetings happened had to be adapted to the circumstances, many connections continued to be forged and built on during this period.

Our Strategy

Networking

Equipping

Collaborating

COVID Response

The lockdowns enforced due to Covid-19 in 2020 resulted in severely stressed communities. In order to get Covid relief where it was needed during Covid-19 lockdowns, Connect worked with network affiliate organisations to identify needs and support the most vulnerable.

Covid Support

The strength of the network that had been built over the past 16 years was seen in the immediate and effective response to Covid.

As soon as lockdown was announced, a survey and telephonic contact quickly established where areas of need were. Donor resource mobilisation occurred, both financial and in-kind.

The effort that organisations had made to ensure that they had due diligence in place through applying themselves to our Quality Improvement System stood them in good stead when they were identified as being viable and accountable organisations. Lead Agents benefitted from having established networks within their communities to get resources where they were needed most.



Grants

Connect Network, in partnership with the Sanlam Foundation, Claytile, Barney II Foundation and further international and local donors made grants of over R1 million available to organisations within the network. Organisations who had shown commitment to improving the systems and procedures within their organisations through Quality Improvement System training and had completed the verification process, were eligible for the application of grants. Grants were made available to community-based organisations to continue to build their Safe Communities through the lockdown period.

Through these grants, community organisations were able to provide relief feeding, educational support, pscho-social support and essential hygiene packs to those they work with.

Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief Grants

Beautiful Gate

A Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant was awarded to Beautiful Gate who works in Lower Crossroads to protect children and empower families through health, family strengthening and education initiatives. Beautiful Gate was responding to Covid-19 in a number of ways to support the community. The grant enabled Beautiful Gate to continue to offer food and nutrition support to children thereby supporting health and education goals.

iKhaya le Themba

An NGO based in Wellington and Khayelitsha, iKhaya le Themba provides home-based care, community development and skills training, conducts youth and children care work and provides a feeding programme. iKhaya le Themba received a Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant for food and nutrition support. Responding to the unemployment and loss of food provision caused by lockdown, the funding was used to feed 100 children daily and provide 50 food parcels once a month over a 6-month period.

Kuyasa Horizon Empowerment

Kuyasa is an NGO working in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch to empower children to become independent. Due to lockdown Kuyasa witnessed a dramatic increase in unemployment in the area and utilised the Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant for feeding of families and to provide sanitary pads to women in these families, as well as PPE to beneficiaries. Through this grant, Kuyasa not only supported families that they previously worked with but were also able to provide support to additional families in the area.

Living Hope

Living Hope works in the deep South of Cape Town to bring hope and break despair. The Living Hope Safe Community in Ocean View was funded by the Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant to provide nutritional support and education regarding Covid prevention to children and families. A Sandwich club providing a sandwich and fruit was made available to children in the area as a response to the identified need of growing hunger, and a soup kitchen provided nutritional support to those of all ages.

The Sozo Foundation

The Sozo Foundation works to empower and upskill youth in the Vrygrond/Capricorn area of Cape Town. The Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant supported the Sozo Foundation's collaboration with key stakeholder organisations in Vrygrond to provide food relief to 1000 individuals as well as Hygiene Dignity Packs for 250 vulnerable youth and children (including shampoo, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitiser, and sanitary towels for females).

Phambili

Working in the Broadlands, Strand area, to bring health and wellbeing services to the community, Phambili utilised the Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant for food to the most vulnerable within their community (children and young adolescents, older persons, HIV and TB positive clients and chronic diseased clients) as well as to provide blankets and warm clothing.

Prochorus

Prochorus offers sustainable programmes to ensure that each person reaches their potential. Prochorus received a Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant for a special project to support the most vulnerable children in Kayamandi and Cloeteville within Stellenbosch. Children with disabilities were the focus and included support to their families. The support within this project included: collaboration with various NGO's and service providers working with the poor and marginalized, therapy and counselling, providing various basic needs like food, school and recreational resources, equipping with parenting skills, health care, rehabilitation and psycho-social support.

Sikhula Sonke

Sikhula Sonke, Khayelitsha, focuses on Early Childhood Development and provides early learning through outreach programmes. During the initial Covid lockdown their attention turned to helping the community with basic essential needs towards Covid 19, addressing primarily health and nutrition. This focussed on the provision of essential services as a response to Covid 19, including assisting families with Vitamin C effervescent tablets for children and caregivers to boost their immune systems as well as the provision of food parcels.

Village Care Centre

Village Care Centre works in the heart of Lavender Hill to care for children, youth and families. Their Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant was used to provide much needed relief in the form of food to the community as well as PPE for the Care Centre workers.

Western Cape Street Children's Forum

The Sanlam/Connect Network Covid-19 Relief grant provided funds for food relief and PPE for drop-in centres within WSCSF around the Western Cape.





Additional Covid-19 relief grants

Mercy Aids

MercyAids facilitates broad-based support for orphans, vulnerable children and the people who care for them. A small grant was provided to MercyAids for food provision through soup kitchens in Fisantekraal, Cape Town.

Hope to the Hopeless

Hope to the Hopeless supports the community of Ravensmead through feeding and practical care. A Connect Network/Claytile small grant was given to Hope to the Hopeless for relief feeding through their centre.

Matla a Bana

Matla a Bana is a NPO who provides a voice against abuse and support to children in abusive situations. Lockdown resulted in the court system coming to a halt. As a result, many children were at home with their abusers. A grant was provided to Matla-a-Bana, who worked with the police who were monitoring these homes, to provide food relief parcels.

Community Chest

Toiletries were provided by Community Chest through Connect Network to organisations working in communities.

Food relief

Connect Network distributed 1000 boxes of food support through the Solidarity Fund. Many acts of kindness and generosity of spirit were witnessed during the Covid lockdown. An example of this was when, near the beginning of the lockdown, we received a telephone call from a long-standing Connect Network supporter and ex-board member, Peter Williams. Through his networks he had secured 1000 boxes of food through the Solidarity Fund for distribution. He offered to distribute these to 9 organisations within the network who were established in their communities and able to identify families who would benefit from this support. The focus of these deliveries was community-based Lead Agent organisations.

Solidarity food boxes were delivered to:

- Beautiful Gate
- The Sozo Foundation
- Sikhula Sonke
- Living Hope
- Village Care Centre
- Phambili Community Development
- Kuyasa Horizon Development
- MercyAids
- Hope to the Hopeless

When Covid 19 came in March 2020 Kuyasa had to change the whole operating strategy. The majority of our beneficiaries lost their incomes. We had to serve more than 600 beneficiaries with food parcels, and toiletries for the youth. The need became too much, meaning that we needed more funds to serve our people. Since the beginning of the pandemic we were in constant communication with Connect Network. We shared our struggles with them and they assisted us to apply for the Sanlam grant that we were not aware of. We received the R 100 000 grant from Sanlam with the help of Connect. We were then able to serve our beneficiaries with food parcels, toiletries and PPE. Thank you so much to our partner Connect Network

~Wiseman Zondiwe: Kuyasa Horizon Empowerment

Connecting through child Protection

Connect Network lead agents and affiliates used the annual Child Protection campaign during the month of May to promote child protection and to support the development of their safe communities. Child Protection week serves as a focussed reminder of the continued vulnerability of children and the importance of protecting children in all our communities.

"The care and well-being of children in South Africa needs to be taken seriously. Despite the country's progressive Constitution and empowering legislation, child abuse cases are constantly on the rise."

~Nkomo, Daily Maverick, June 2020

Media Campaign

A media campaign was held that included TV, print, radio and social media platforms named "Reduce the abuse." A focus was placed on the challenges of lockdown. This was highlighted as children and women often found themselves locked down with their abusers without access to the usual support, which may have been schools or community organisations that were now closed due to lockdown restrictions. The campaign highlighted these stresses and created awareness of resources where vulnerable people could access help, including help via telephone.

A newspaper article: "SA needs to save its future – the children" (Grace Nkomo) was published in the Daily Maverick.

Connect Network ran a radio campaign with jingles recorded in English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans, featuring the rugby celebrities Damian Willemse, Scarra Ntubeni and singer Rivka Hope.

Radio interviews were held on CCFM (Lorraine Moko) and Radio Helderberg (Grace Nkomo) and the jingle was played on Fine Music Radio, Smile FM and Bok Radio. The video and jingle were played on Bok TV.

We kept social media updated with regular posts on Facebook about Child Protection month, encouraging people to wear green (the official colour of Child Protection Month), showcasing child protection information as well as featuring affiliates pages on our home page to increase their exposure to the wider network. Facebook Affiliate features for Child Protection week were: The Sozo Foundation, Jelly Bean, Sikhula Sonke, Beautiful Gate and Living Hope.

Website

The Connect Network website also contains information and links to report abuse and materials to download for use within communities, schools and churches to create awareness around child protection.

Connecting through electronic communication

The bi-weekly information page compiled by Connect Network and sent to affiliates provided current and relevant information on happenings and opportunities within the sector. The social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter also provided public communication on Network activities and helped affiliates to stay connected with each other.

Child Protection Events

Connect Network Lead Agents and affiliates conducted child protection events in their local communities with the children that they work with. Themes centred around empowerment, prevention and equipping, with information on what to do if something does happen to oneself or another child.

Lead Agents and affiliates held the following child protection events during the COVID -19 lockdown:

Village Care Centre

"The event took place at the Village Care Centre, Lavender Hill. An awareness talk was given by the social worker, pamphlets were handed out, photos were taken from each child that came. All received food. 92 children and 42 adults from the community attended. People will know more of what to do when they are aware of child abuse".

Hope to the Hopeless

"Due to Covid-19 lockdown the child protection event was held at Norway Primary school on 12 June. We had a prayer session with grade 7 learners. We gave awareness for their safety during Covid-19, gave masks and read Psalm 91 for protection. Only 28 learners attended due to social distance. They were strengthened by prayer and encouragement. The teachers were also encouraged and very thankful".



Photo courtesy of Village Care Centre



Photo courtesy of Hope to the Hopeless

Child Protection Events

Life Child

"Our Child Protection Campaign took place online on Social Media Marketing on Instagram and Facebook. We launched a campaign back in March called Hope 2020 as a response to the global pandemic. For Child Protection Week we highlighted our values and core beliefs around child protection and encouraged partners/donors to give. It is an ongoing campaign, but people are so happy to see change is taking places and we are intervening during this time".

Phambili Community Development

Phambili, together with a local church held a children's prayer day event. "We had children from our community and our Sunday school children who attended this event. We had more than 45 children who attended, age group between 3-13 years old. Our programme had been adjusted considering Covid-19 regulations regarding social distances between them. Each child had his/her own block, just to help keep the distances between them. Children had the privilege to Praise and Worship. Our topics were the importance of prayer, what is prayer, why do we pray, what and who to pray for. Also addressing some health awareness and importance of their well-being. Prevention tips regarding Coronavirus. The prayer requests our children prayed for was... the hotspots around the world for children infected and affected by coronavirus. Children currently living on the streets, currently in hospital, children and teachers returning back to school, Sunday school children and teachers and for our community in general. Refreshments were served afterwards, each child received a hotdog with juice and a fruit pack".

The Sozo Foundation

Sozo took part in a Green Ribbon Wearing day, CCFM Interview and Community outreach, with awareness of child protection raised through the feeding programme. At the official re-opening of the Sozo Foundation, every staff member was pinned with a green ribbon and the child protection officer reminded everyone of child protection week.

Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development

The event took place at Sikhula Sonke head office and Radio Khayelitsha studios. "On 31 May – 7 June 2020 was national child protection week and as an organization that works with ECDs and children, we also had to find ways under strict Covid-19 regulations to once more educate society as we have always done over the years about child protection. It was not easy this time around as we were not allowed to gather people in one place. We had to be innovative and find other ways to empower society. In partnership with local radio (Radio Khayelitsha 97.1fm), we were granted two hours slot two days a week to bring a team that will take over the show and educate people about the child protection. This has been a success as we had two social workers who are part of the Sikhula Sonke staff talking, empowering and education society".

Beautiful Gate

Embracing Child Protection week: The event took place in the informal Safe Park in the Community. "We had activities with 130 children in different groups, teaching children about COVID-19, how to protect them and stay safe during this difficult time. Teaching Children about their rights and different signs of abuse, how and where to report if you experience any kind of abuse. They benefit a lot by doing drawings and painting and get knowledge. They also benefit by doing other activities i.e. singing and dancing to show their potential".

Living Hope

Child Protection Campaign on Social Media: "We posted and created awareness around Child Protection. We posted it on FB, Instagram and WhatsApp. We had 2 posts a day 31 May – 07 June and it was shared on the platforms. We hope through this awareness the social media community will be able to identify abuse, they will access help and contact the resources that we shared and they'll be a lot more aware that EVERY CHILD HAS A VOICE".



Photo courtesy of Phambili Community Development



Photo courtesy of Sikhula Sonke

We Equip

Integral to the purpose of Connect Network is to equip organisations who are part of the Network. This is done through capacity-building training, workshops and forums where subject experts share relevant and current knowledge. Through equipping, organisations become stronger and better placed to serve the women and children within their communities. Our capacity building programmes also provide tools for further community engagement.

Our Strategy



Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development has been an affiliate of Connect Network for many years. Being part of this network has been super beneficial to our organisation in many ways, from organisation development through QIS, child protection and other empowerment activities, to being recipient of the funds that have been sourced by Connect Network for our organisation. We are so greatly thankful and appreciative of that.

~Mdebuka Mthwazi: Sikhula Sonke



Photo courtesy of The Sozo Foundation

Quality Improvement System Organisational Capacity Building

The Quality Improvement System, implemented by Connect Network in partnership with Viva International, had a milestone year. The Quality Improvement System (QIS) Programme, plays an important role in strengthening Connect affiliates and other non-profit organisations with their organisational development goals towards sustainability. This capacity building programme not only provides a framework for organisations to put their own structures and policies in place, but also equips delegates to become committed champions for child protection and child wellbeing in support of Connect's safe community strategy.

Several key changes were introduced to QIS in 2020. Improved accessibility to the training for more organisations was central to the rationale behind the changes.

The first of the changes was the facilitation of QIS on an online platform, with Child Protection being the first module offered. A QIS team with Michelle Kempster, Colin Walker and Siyoli Waters prepared a live workshop for Connect affiliates. Janice King (Western Cape Street Children's Forum), Lorraine Moko and Tony Lawrence presented to 36 affiliates from 18 organisations. A number of lead agent organisations took the opportunity to invite fellow organisations from their communities to the training and in this way collaborated to build their Safe Community.

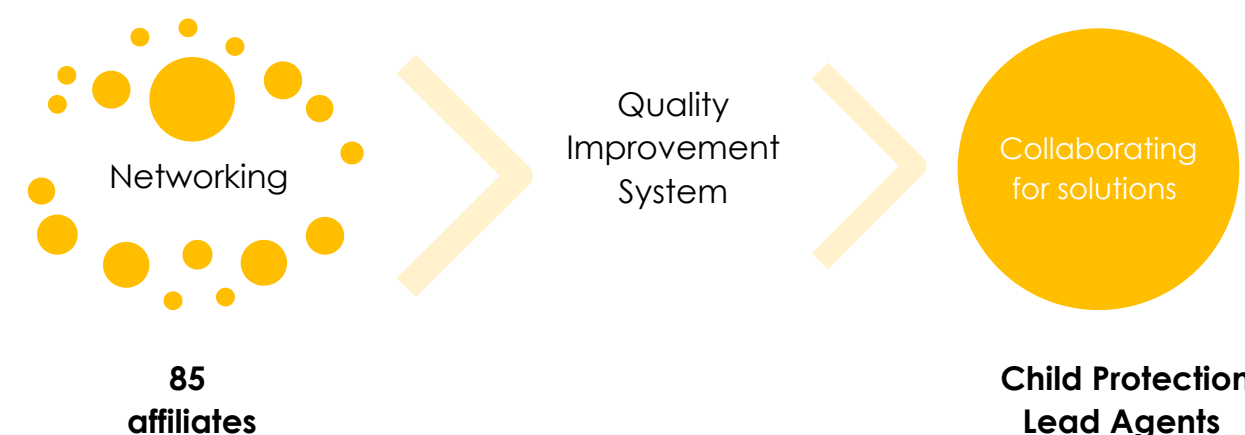
On completion of this first introduction to the online delivery of QIS, the team began to work hard to adapt the programme for delivery through a more permanent online platform. Much thought and strategizing went into the selection of the most effective platform for delivery and the best way to make the training relevant and accessible to our South African audience.

Planning and many hours of hard work resulted in the launch of the first online QIS module on the Connect Network Thinkific platform in February 2021.

33 organisations attended this training, including 6 Lead Agent organisations, with a total of 63 participants. It is encouraging to see that the accessibility of the online platform already showed an increase in participants, both on an individual and organisational level.

Verification by module

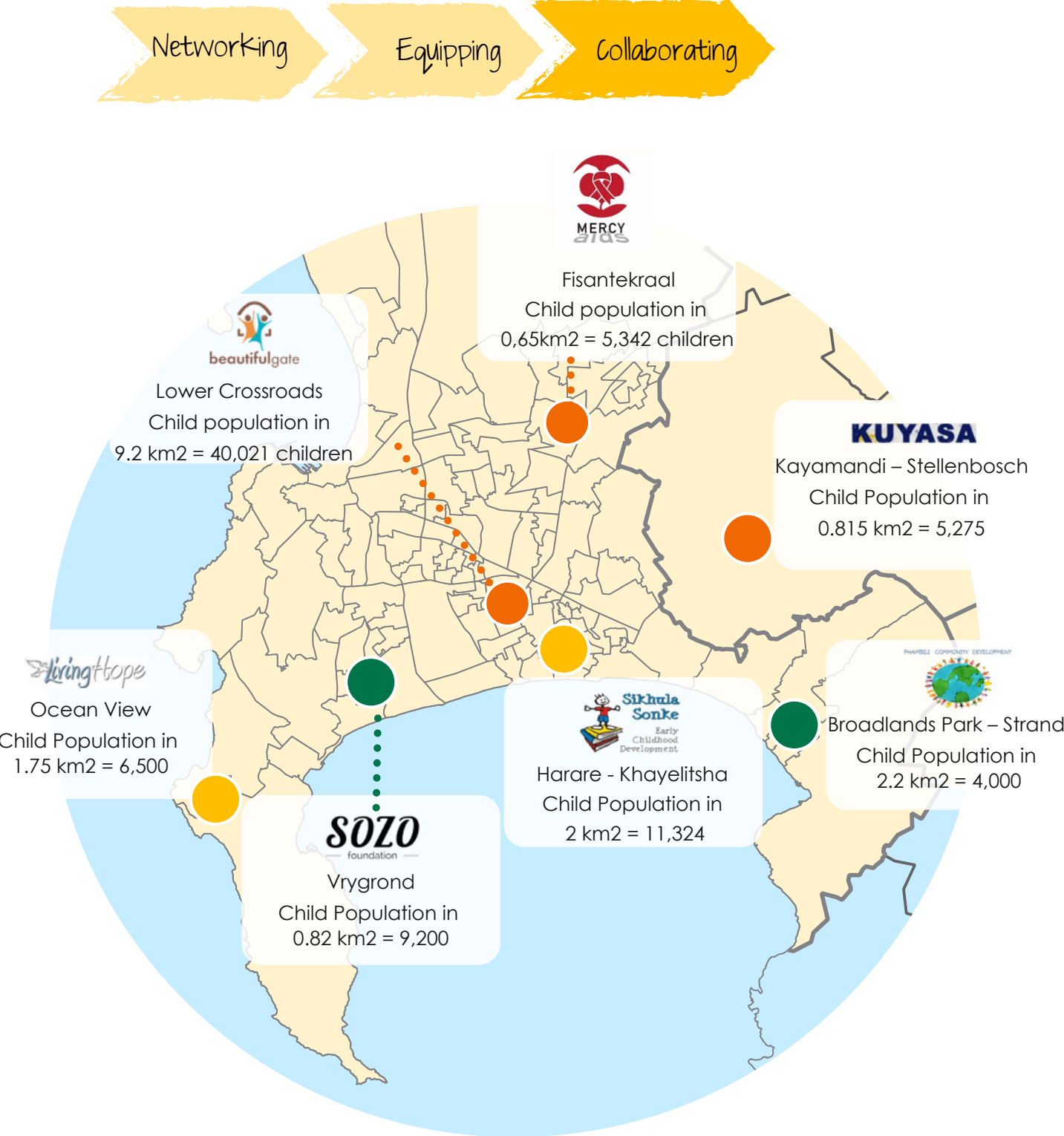
Further changes were introduced to the QIS process, such as having a modular focus as well as changes to the levels of verification. Organisations are now able to complete QIS one module at a time and achieve verification per module. In addition to this, an additional level of verification was introduced – Bronze level, to supplement the Silver (previously Foundations) and Gold (previously Accountability) levels. Verification for QIS is completed in partnership with Viva International.



We collaborate: City-wide Child Protection Solutions

Our strategic goal is to build Safe Communities across the city of Cape Town. Central to this strategy are the key community organisations within these communities who are building and strengthening community networks of care. The current Lead Agents are:

Our Strategy



We Collaborate

The ultimate goal of Connect Network is for organisations to join together to bring solutions to address the challenges that are facing the vulnerable in our city. Our strategy is to create Safe Communities throughout the city, with Lead Agent organisations at the forefront of these community collaborations. The partnerships formed around the Covid response as well as the engagement with Quality Improvement Systems training provided opportunities for collaboration never experienced before. Community organisations joined hands to provide solutions and build networks of care. The activities below were additional opportunities for collaboration and community response.

Blanket drive

Connect Network, in partnership with the Kolisi Foundation, Adidas and Community Chest, facilitated a collection of blankets which were distributed in the Vrygrond Safe Community to network organisations The Sozo Foundation, Western Cape Street Children's Forum, Philisa Abafasi and Village Care Centre.

Prayer meetings

Due to lockdown restrictions, instead of the traditional prayer breakfasts, during the course of 2020 prayer meetings were started and held online. These were well attended by Connect affiliates who were able to share, pray and receive support for the challenges that they were facing.

Strategic meetings

One of the strategic meetings held during 2020 was the Connect Network AGM. A small event held at Middelvlei, this AGM was the last time that Dee Moskoff presented the Connect Annual Review and allowed an opportunity for members of the Board and NPC to bid her a very fond farewell.

Coordinating a network is a dynamic working space, with complex variables and compelling tensions, it requires extraordinary intentional leadership doused with prayer and wisdom to move 90 organisations forward in a joint direction towards seeing more children in a safe environments where families are thriving and communities are transformed. This is our hope and our mission.

~ Dee Moskoff, 2019

Barney II Small Grants

Beautiful Gate: Building a Child Friendly approach

Working through the Local Ecumenical Action Network (LEAN) group of churches formed during Covid-19, the grant was partly used to build into the safe community strategy by inviting and hosting 5 churches/ministries to attend the online Child Protection QIS module. This initiative then led into the birth of a local Sunday school forum.

Connect Network NPC in partnership with Film School Africa

A grant was given for a collaboration with Film School Africa to produce a short film highlighting the child protection work of Connect Network.

School of Hope

The School of Hope provides education for youth at risk. A grant was provided for the purchase of computers for computer studies as well as staff development workshops and training.

Community Empowerment Project (Heaven on Earth)

The Heaven on Earth project based in Sir Lowry's Pass provides support and training for the Early Childhood Development sector. The Barney II grant was utilised to support ECD learners and provide training and equipping for their teachers and parents.

Barney II grants for The Sozo Foundation, Connect Network Trauma Informed work and Early Childhood Development work were deferred to 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Additional Small Grants

Beautiful Gate

Viva International provided a small grant for food and emergency provision for families who were housed in the local community centre due to their homes being flooded during winter rains.

Just Grace

Just Grace, an NGO with a focus on poverty alleviation based in Langa, received funding through a Geoss/Connect Network small grant to continue with Quality Improvement Standards training.



Our Collaborative Blanket Drive

Dee Moskoff at our AGM

With the Kolisi Foundation at our Blanket Drive

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Photo courtesy of TThembalisha Foundation

We Collaborate: Advocacy

Child Protection Collaborative

Connect Network has remained an active member of the Child Protection Collaborative and met during the year to discuss how the Collaborative can continue to mobilise various stakeholders within the Western Cape to ensure that the rights of children are protected and needs met.

South African Child Rights Coalition

Connect Network joined the South African Child Rights Coalition (SA CRC), with one of the founding members being a Connect Network affiliate. The SA CRC is an advocacy and communications coalition to support coordinated action for effective child rights governance in South Africa – now, in the face of covid-19 and in the future.

Food Advocacy

In a desire to ensure that food provision within communities is as coordinated and sustainable as possible, Connect Network took part in discussions and forums that centred on this goal.

Grace Nkomo presented to forums coordinated by the Warehouse Trust and the KZN Council of Churches on the topic of Food Gardens within a food justice perspective, looking at the benefits and challenges of the involvement of children in food gardens.

Connect Network took part in the Western Cape Food Forum and Helderberg basin food forums for Covid-19 response.

Gender Based Violence Campaign

During the 16 days of Activism against Women in November, Connect Network featured as part of the Kolisi Foundation Gender Based Violence campaign. One of the Connect Lead Agents and the Executive Director of Connect were interviewed and featured in this campaign which was flighted across social media platforms.

Being part of Connect during the pandemic helped me to keep going even when we could not meet in person. Learning together, working together, and praying together for the vulnerable we serve is a gift of being part of Connect.

~ Barbara Clarke: MercyAids

"You are not alone" was something the Connect showed during these tough times. They prayed with us and for us, communicated with us and supported us where possible. Thank you to Connect Network.

~ Nathan Panti: Living Hope

Governance and Operations

Strategic meetings were held throughout the year to ensure that the Connect Network strategy continues to be relevant and impactful for local communities.

Non-Profit Company Members

Non-Profit Company members' role is to determine the goals and strategy of the Network. Non-Profit Company members are drawn from the leadership of local NGO's. The representatives of these community organisations are able to provide feedback from community stakeholders and thereby shape the strategy and activities of Connect Network according to community needs and desires.

The NPC members for 2020 were:

Beautiful Gate

Kuyasa Horizon Empowerment

Living Hope

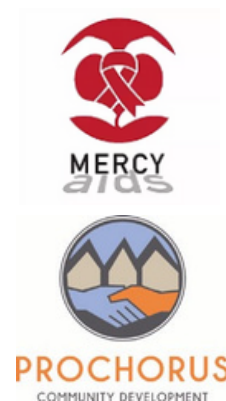
Mercy Aids

Prochorus Community Development

Sikhula Sonke

The Sozo Foundation

Think Twice



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors provides governance to the finances and resources of the NPC as well as strategic direction for the network. Throughout the Leadership succession that has taken place in 2020 the Board has provided strategic guidance and support to the new Director, as well as continuing to ensure that the necessary governance processes have continued.



Vaughan Stannard
Board Chairperson



Cheryl Anderson
Finance
Governance



Moussa Mulamba
Advocacy
Governance



Camngca Mda
Risk Governance



Grace Nkomo
Executive Director

Network Coordination Team

The Coordination team is made up of individuals who are committed to the Network's vision and receive some sort of remuneration either through employment, contract work, a retainer or refund of expenses. Together they provide coordination and administration services to the activities of Connect.



Chief Finance Officer
Beverley Stoffberg



Network and
Finance Administrator
Priscilla Muller



Network Office
Administrator
Lindy Johnson



Hospitality Officer
Phumza Mhlonyane



QIS Project Team
Michelle Kempster



QIS Project Team
Siyloi Waters



QIS Project Team
Colin Walter



Fundraising Contractor
Sophie Olivier

Volunteers

Every year we welcome professional volunteers to have work experience while assisting us with projects. This year we had Caitlin Truter and Mini Radebe capably ensuring that our Social Media communications continued to the network and interested stakeholders.

Prochorus has been part of the Connect family for more than 10 years. During this time we have received countless support, encouragement and opportunities from the Connect Network. We would like to thank Connect for their continuous support to us as an organisation, as well as the surrounding communities! Your passion for women and children is tangible!

~Jacomien Scannell: Prochorus Community Development



Photo courtesy of Kin Culture

Connect Network Community

85 Affiliates ~ 3660 Workers ~ 335,120 Women & Children

- | | |
|--|---|
| 360 Transformation | Matla-A-Bana |
| ACVV Bright Lights | MeCAHT – Media Campaign Against Human Trafficking |
| ACVV Somerset West | Mercy Aids/Resilient Kids SA |
| Arise Children's Ministry | Metro Kids Africa |
| Bayakhanya Foundation | Naomi's Joy |
| Beautiful Gate Ministries International | Open Doors |
| Beautiful Gate South Africa | Open Schools Worldwide |
| Beauty for Ashes | Paarl Youth Initiative |
| Bridges of Hope SA | Percy Bartley House |
| Bridging Abilities | Phambili Community Development |
| Carehaven Salvation Army | Philippi Children's Centre |
| Circle of Unity | Philippi Trust SA |
| Choices Centre | Prochorus Community Development |
| Common Good Foundation | Rock Community Centre |
| Community Empowerment Project | SA Cares for Life |
| Eagle's Nest Ministries | Safeline Abuse Prevention & Treatment Centre |
| Emyezweni Nomfaneleko Pre-School | Salt & Light Children's Discipleship |
| Ethel's Place Youth Care Centre | S-Cape Home |
| Ezrah Community Training and Development | Scripture Union |
| Film School Africa | Seasons Crisis Pregnancy Centre |
| Friends of Child Protection | Sikhula Sonke |
| Good Hope Psychological Services | Sisters Incorporated |
| Heatherdale Children's Homes | Siyakhula SA |
| Helderberg Development Centre | St. Anne's Home |
| Home from Home Trust | Tereo Project |
| Home of Compassion Ministries | Thando Trust |
| Hope House Counselling Centre | The Ark City of Refuge |
| Hope to the Hopeless | The Healing Heart Foundation |
| Hope Prison Ministries | The Sozo Foundation |
| iKhaya Le Themba Home Based Care | Thembalitsa Foundation |
| Joya Homes and Educare Company | Think Twice |
| Just Grace NPC | Touch Community Network |
| Khula Development Group | Trinity Children's Centre |
| Kibwe Kids | True North Consulting NPC |
| Kin Culture | UCSA – United Christian Student Association |
| Kingdom Vision Bible School | uThando leNkosi |
| Kings and Queens NPC | Valcare Trust |
| Kuyasa Horizon Empowerment | Village Care Centre |
| Lerato's Hope | Vineyard Houses |
| Life Child | Warrior Woman |
| Living Hope | Western Cape Street Children's Forum |
| Ma's vir Wellington | World Vision Atlantis ADP |

Affiliates highlighted in yellow have been QIS verified.

Partners



The Active Education Group creates programmes that provide holiday activities and childcare for children in the UK. They provide language schools for international students and sports coaching academies. AEG partners with Connect Network by providing funding for the annual Child Ambassador camps. The aim of these camps is to provide a fun, activity packed, learning environment for 60 children per year.



Barney II Foundation was established by Bill and Sabra Reichardt (from New York, USA) to support, through funding, value based initiatives that focus on the education and wellbeing of children. The foundation was introduced to Connect Network by Viva and has partnered with us in establishing the Connect Small Grants programme since 2009.



A civil society child protection movement which is made up of representative practitioners and professionals from various entities. The Child Protection Collaborative focus collaboratively on disseminating research, advocacy and child protection awareness. Connect is a founding partner.



Since its launch in 2012, Collaboration Dialogue have continued to provide a platform which facilitates sharing and learning across the 'for purpose' sector, with curated content featuring a broad range of topics and specialists. Connect is one of the collaborators and is represented on the Western Cape planning committee.



Community Chest engages and collaborates with organisations, concerned citizens and professionals to build resilient and responsive communities where access and opportunities to health, education and income-generation services are advanced. The partnership has resulted in Connect Network being one of the founding organisations of the Western Cape Child Protection Collaborative, an advocacy group for child protection.



Equipped to Serve, Inc., based in the United States, has an agreement with Connect Network to use the South African edition material of The Ministry of Listening: Caring for People in Crisis. The course provides training in basic crisis intervention counselling skills to enable participants to effectively minister to people in crisis.



Mergon is a private investment group that exists to impact lives, and seeks to equip others to do the same. Mergon and Connect Network have worked in partnership since 2016 in order to further develop the networks ability to make meaningful impact for children.



Kerk in Actie is the programme for missionary and diaconal work of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands and of 10 smaller churches and ecumenical organisations. Kerk in Actie facilitates relations between local congregations in the Netherlands and churches and organisations abroad regarding the proclamation of the Gospel and promotion of justice. The partnership with Connect is their enabling the Safe Community Strategy for children through funding the project coordination.



Ranyaka was established as a non-profit, urban planning consultancy in 2013 to develop transformative strategies for towns and neighbourhoods. They work hand-in-hand with residents, civil society entities, faith-based institutions, business, all levels of government, academic institutions and local change agents to co-create places where people can prosper – in every sense of the word. By the end of 2019, they will be working in eight towns in six provinces across South Africa and are partnering with Connect to map our safe communities.



Viva is a world-wide network of Christians working with children at risk operating in 21 different countries, supporting thousands of projects working with children at risk in 35 city-wide networks. Viva is the standard bearer for Connect's Quality Improvement System. Viva and Connect Network are committed at all times to exploring mutually beneficial collaborations through joint programmes.



The WCSCF is a network of organisations working in partnership to create a coordinated, integrated and collaborative sector for children living, working or begging on the street and always acting in the best interest of the child and are partnering with Connect to synergise common efforts to safeguard children.

Donors

Donors – South African

Anonymous Individual/s
 DG Murray Trust
 GEOSS Isipho Trust
 Claytile (Pty) Ltd
 Deus Te Ajude Fishing (Pty) Ltd
 Elmarie Becker
 HT Gormley Testamentary Trust
 Innovation Edge
 Lee Anne De La Hunt
 Lin Helme

Mergon Foundation
 Power Process Systems
 Robyn Williams
 Rodolfo Bruno
 Santam
 Sanlam Foundation
 Solidarity Fund
 The Blakes
 The Community Chest of the Western Cape
 Virginia De La Hunt

Donors – Overseas

Anna Mary
 Barney-II Foundation
 Magdalena Fuchs Genzoli
 Kerk In Actie
 The Zurkindens
 Viva Africa
 Viva North America

Donations In Kind

Bok Radio
 Bok TV
 Damian Willemse
 Fine Music Radio
 Ivan Moskoff Financials (Pty) Ltd
 Peter Williams
 Rivka Hope
 Scarra Ntubeni
 Smile FM
 Solidarity Fund

Calendar Donors

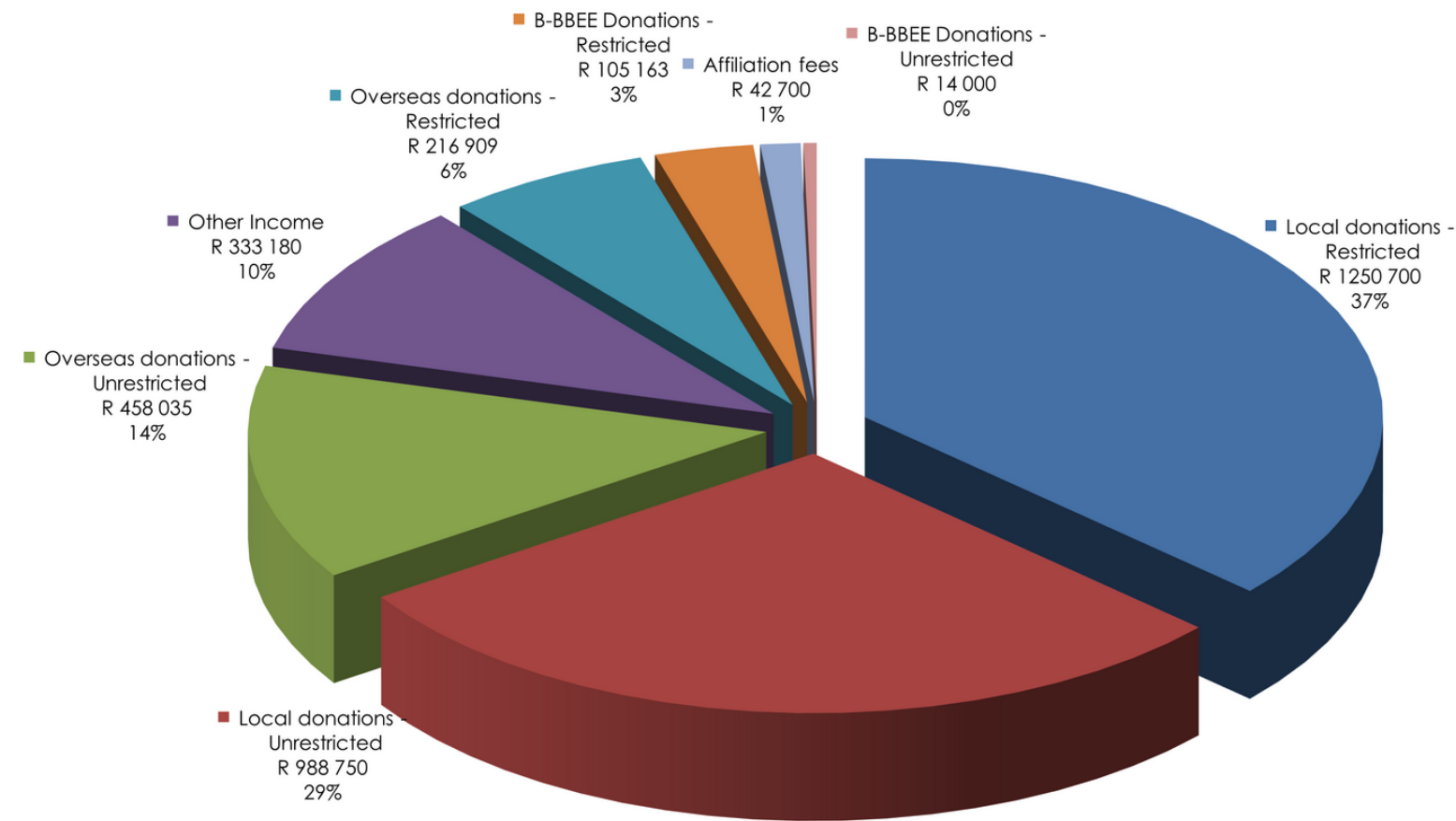
Cape Agricultural Products (Pty) Ltd
 Cebano Consultants (Pty) Ltd
 Claytile (Pty) Ltd
 Geoss SA (Pty) Ltd
 Ivan Moskoff Financials (Pty) Ltd
 Mokato Espresso
 Purple Line Plastics (Pty) Ltd
 Rawson Properties
 Rook Cycles - Klaas van Mill
 South African Christian Directory - Skip Krige

Approximately R1,300,000 was contributed to the overall network income through donations in-kind including COVID food parcels, volunteer time, equipment loaned for free and donated meeting spaces & resources. This equates to 39% of our financial income for the year of R3,409,437.

Finances

Income

2021: R3,409,437
2020: R1,965,541

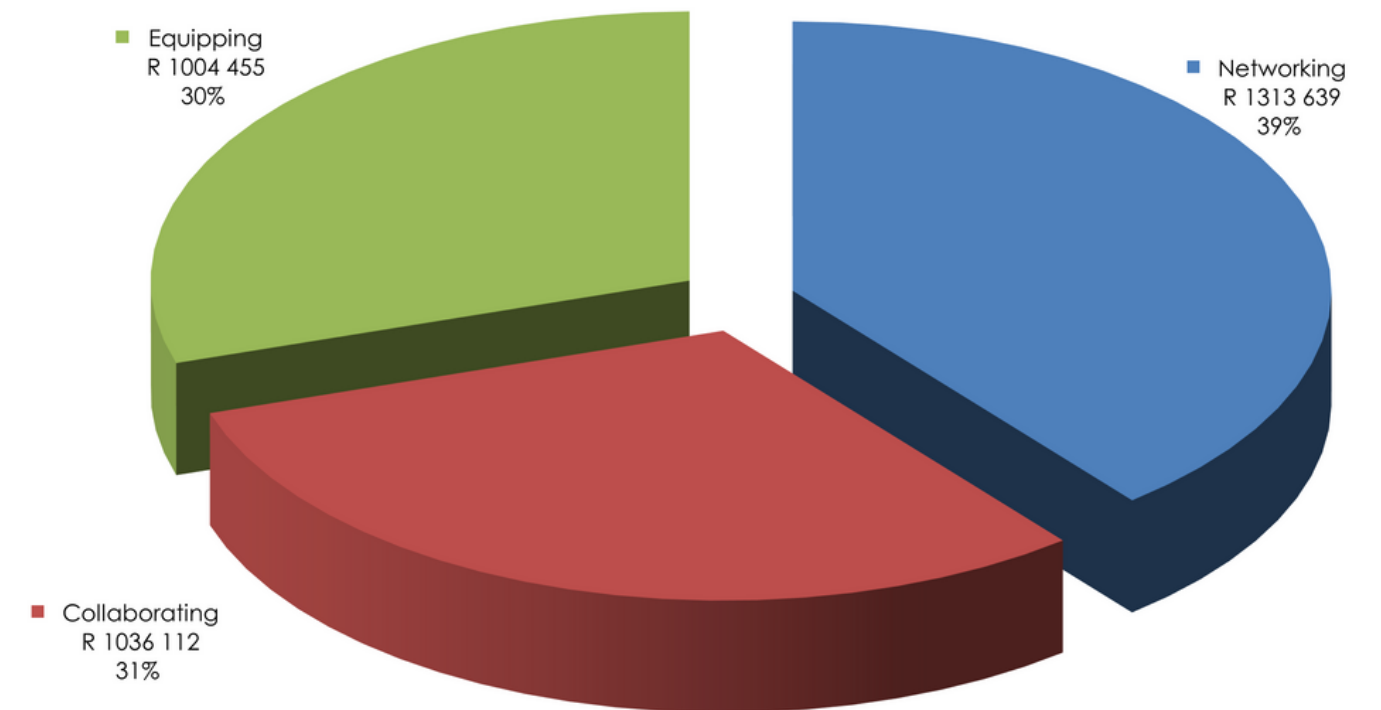


Of the total income for the year, 1% was raised through affiliation fees, 79% was raised through local donations and fundraising and 20% through foreign donations. It is great to see so much money being raised locally, thus demonstrating immense local support for the work being carried out by the network.

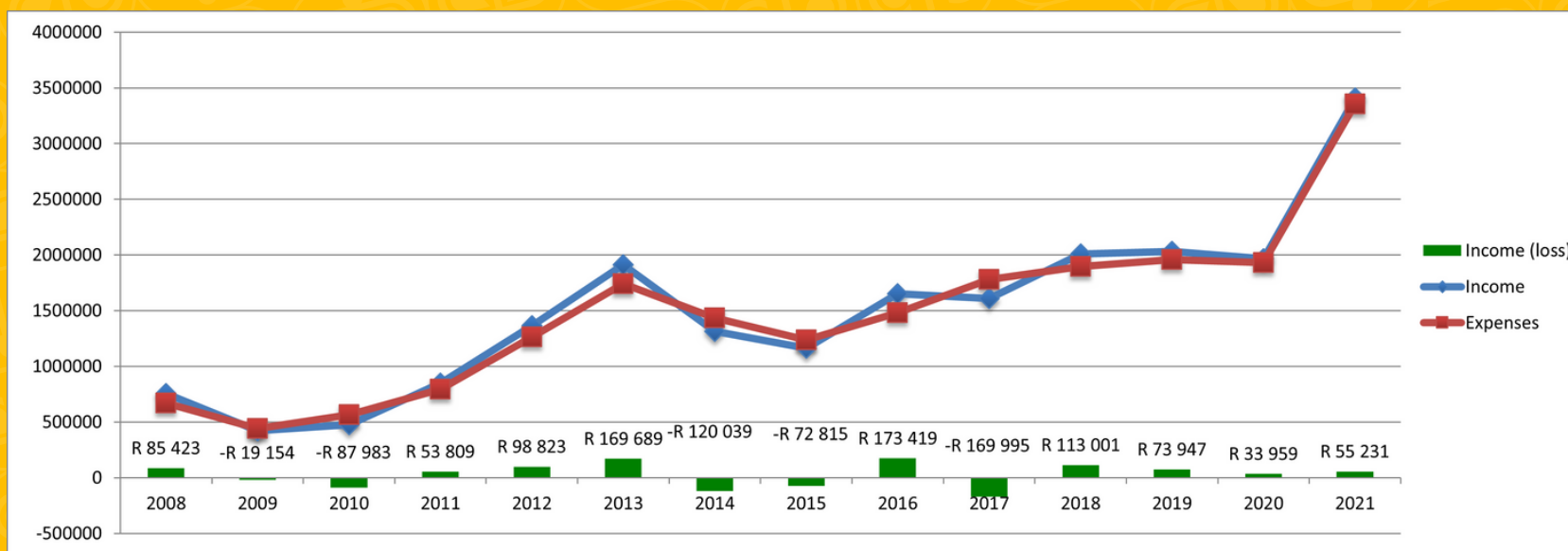
It is important to note that the estimated value of donations-in-kind for the year amounted to R1,328,100. These comprise of COVID food parcels, volunteer time, equipment loaned, donated meeting spaces & resources

Expenditure

2021: R3,354,206
2020: R1,931,582



Connect Network's strategy is to equip affiliates to be more effective and impactful in their work, both individually and collectively. This is clearly reflected above in the financial spend over the past financial year with an almost equal split between Equipping, Collaborating & Networking. This assures all stakeholders that our income distribution is in line with our strategy.



"This chart reveals Connect Network's dedication and commitment to a strategy that improves the lives of vulnerable women and children. It also reflects our adaptability and resilience in a changing and volatile funding environment within the COVID lockdown period. In this year Connect is still in transition and diversifying our business model. Through the shift, we have acquired funding from 3 new donor relationships formed and focused work on our COVID-19 support and response as well as the digitisation of our Quality Improvement System (QIS) training which resulted in our first QIS online module being offered to the network. We have continued work on our grant writing, brand enhancement and digital marketing to increase our appeal to potential donors for the longer term. The increase from the 2020 to 2021 financial year's income and expense figures can be largely attributed to the additional income received and expense items incurred due to our responses to the coronavirus pandemic. These factors have contributed to our surplus for this year."



Together For Women and Children At Risk

Registered as: Connect Christian Network NPC 2006/012058/08

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Bank Details: Account Name: Connect • Account No: 1060 191 113 • Bank: Nedbank

Branch: Somerset West • Branch Code: 10-60-12 • Swift Code: Nedszajj

We are a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor with 135% procurement recognition and 100% B-BBEE SED recognition.

Photos of children used with permission and in accordance with Connect Network's Child Protection Policy.

Many of the photos were taken before Covid protocols were necessary.

Front cover photograph courtesy of Living Hope

Back cover photograph courtesy of the Lorentz Family

