



Together For Women and Children At Risk

Annual Review 2022
March 2021 to February 2022

“Joining together is a beginning,
Keeping together is progress,
working together is success.”
Edward Everett Hale

A Message from the Chairperson

This past year we are grateful for significant progress made towards equipping our Network with the tools they need to continue to have a growing Kingdom influence in our city.

Thanks to the leadership of our Executive Director, Mrs Grace Nkomo and our amazing team, Connect Network has been able to ensure the ongoing development of the Online Quality Improvement System (QIS) organisational training, which makes our member and affiliate training more accessible to smaller organisations in our Safe Communities and indeed all around the country! This past year we have completed three modules, enabling us to host Child Protection, Financial Accountability and Governance modules online. We aim to complete all six modules for the remainder of 2022-23.

A special thanks to the QIS Online team for your creativity and attention to detail and to all the trainers for your input, especially those from within the Network!

Other focus areas within the Network have included, Trauma-informed workshops, a Leaders' forum, the completion of our KZN relief efforts and the launch of our Gender-based Violence and Femicide prevention project.

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 by 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 of 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



A Message from the Executive Director

The 2021-2022 year continued to be globally challenging, with Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns still very much impacting plans and activities. Despite the constraints imposed, Connect Network continued to focus on building into the lives of women and children in the city of Cape Town and beyond. We are ever mindful of the need for this work as we continue to be devastated by the impact of violence on women and children.

With a continued focus on the Connect Network strategy to support key organisations to build Safe Communities within their contexts, it was a year of consolidation and expansion. We have continued to develop strong programmes that organisations can use to work with those who need protection, care and support.

We trust that the foundational work in terms of Quality Improvement System capacity building, Gender Based Violence and Femicide work and Child Ambassadors will continue to ensure that women and children are increasingly protected and safeguarded in our communities.

It was a privilege to be part of the many projects and activities that took place this year. The teams that made this work possible have been amazing in their dedication to seeing Connect Network goals fulfilled – from the incredibly hard-working financial and administrative team, the passionate and capable project coordinators, to the knowledgeable and dedicated working group members.

I continue to stand in awe of the sacrifices made by Board members and Non-Profit Company representatives from affiliate organisations, who commit so much in terms of time, expertise and passion to ensure successful networking, equipping, collaboration and advocacy.

Our donors and partners have given generously to support the plans and goals, and we express our deepest thanks to each one of them. It has been an absolute pleasure to see so much of our vision being brought to life through the commitment of so many. Despite dealing with the difficult issues that we are confronting in the lives of women and children, it is greatly encouraging to be facing them together.

“Thank you to each one
who has played a part in
the life of Connect
Network this year.”



Grace Nkomo



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.

Our Strategy

NETWORK

EQUIP

COLLABORATE

ADVOCATE

WE NETWORK

Central to the vision and mission of Connect Network is the bringing together of organisations and individuals to unite around the common cause of improving the lives of women and children. Individuals and organisations are provided with opportunities to meet and find synergies and ways to move forward meaningfully together.



Child Protection Networking Event



Leaders Forum

Connecting Leaders: Leaders Forum

Connect Network is privileged to be uniquely placed as we work with several Directors of organisations serving our city's children, women and families. This makes us well positioned to support them as individuals and as a collective. We created a Connect Network Leaders Forum during 2021 to give Directors of organisations a place to connect, be equipped and provide the space for them to engage around pertinent issues.

Our inaugural Leaders Forum event was held in April 2021 at Middelvlei in Stellenbosch with 70 network leaders. One of our affiliates, Judy Strickland from Hope House, spoke about the importance of self-care and what this looks like in a trauma-informed context. This topic was an output of the Connect Network trauma-informed working group.

The leaders enjoyed connecting over a meal after a prolonged time of lockdown-enforced isolation.

“I found the presentation on being trauma informed really valuable. A mix of new and previous knowledge put together in a way that was hopeful and practical. I enjoyed and appreciated the whole event, being together with leaders from across the Network.”
Barbara Clark - MercyAids

One of the greatest key milestones that Connect Network has ever taken, was to assemble the Network Leaders towards their well-being. Hope House, being the driver of change and well-being in our midst assisted us to dig deep into the complexities of our leadership and acknowledge the trauma that is associated or embedded within these roles of heading organisations. This has taught me that a Trauma-Informed Leader is better placed to lead and develop an organisation and journey with the community and its beneficiaries at large. Big Up to Network Leaders Forum for taking this step.

Mdebuka Mthwazi - Sikhula Sonke



Trauma-Informed Leaders Forum

It was really helpful to understand what trauma is as we work in a place within a traumatized society. As an African woman, we were taught Kuzolunga (things will eventually be fine). I learned that I need to recognize the state of my own mental health and do something about it in order to be a healthy leader.

When times are tough and stressful, we often feel guilty about celebrating and laughing together, yet this is so important to do when working with ongoing trauma. Holistic care is looking after our bodies, souls, minds and hearts and we need to focus on all these aspects.

Minah Koela - Director Beautiful Gate



Connecting through Child Protection

"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"
Grace Nkomo - Daily Maverick, June 2020

One of the key focus areas of Connect Network is Child Protection and Safeguarding. Connect Network Lead Agents and affiliates used the annual Child Protection campaign during the month of May to promote Child Protection and support the development of their safe communities. Child Protection week serves as a focused reminder of the continued vulnerability of children and the importance of protecting children in all our communities.

Connect Network Child Protection Event

Child Protection week was launched with a Child Protection event, held in collaboration with affiliates Matla a Bana and Western Cape Street Children's Forum, with over 80 individuals. This event hosted members of the South African Police Services Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) units in an information sharing and panel discussion. The head of the FCS in the Western Cape, Brigadier Sonja Harri, spoke about how the FCS is working to ensure that children are given the best police support in situations of abuse. This helped each of us understand our role in working optimally with the police to support victims of violence and abuse.

"The FCS event was so helpful for us as an organisation, such an eye opener of what our communities are facing regarding the safety of our children. Now we know what services are there in cases such as rape, negligence and abuse. It was a great experience, we wish there were lots of children workers who can attend these meetings like this so we can have safe environments."

Unathi Diniso - MetroKids Africa



Child Protection Networking Event



The time together was opened with a candle lighting ceremony and prayers for three groups of people - those that have been victims of abuse, neglect or maltreatment, those that work to support child protection and those that are perpetrators of abuse. Monique Strydom then shared how Matla a Bana was born out of the experience of being hostages of a terrorist organisation. The organisation is now supporting the victims of abuse and the work of SAPS and the NPA.

“Seeing the extent of the sexual crimes against Families and Children in the Western Cape, it was so very good to be made aware of the work, procedures and knowledgeable dedication of Brigadier Harri and her Team. With government systems often quite inaccessible, the personable leadership that Brigadier Harri presents us with brings a sense of accessibility to the services they provide. An accessible and effective system could go a long way to improve reporting of sexual crime, which is so greatly needed.”
Janice King from Western Cape Street Children's Forum

Media Campaign

A media campaign was held that included TV, print, radio and social media platforms named "ConnectToProtect."

Website

The Connect Network website contains information and links to report abuse and materials to download for use within communities, schools and churches to create awareness around child protection: <https://connectnetwork.org.za/about-us/report-abuse>

Newspaper

A reporter from the Daily Maverick attended the Child Protection event on 27 May 2021 and wrote an article in The Daily Maverick published on 1 June 2021 entitled: Abused, beaten, neglected: South African children exposed to horrific levels of violence.



Photo courtesy of Common Good

Radio

Connect Network had the opportunity to create awareness about Child Protection Week on three radio stations. Smile FM interviewed Grace Nkomo. Fine Music Radio created a 30-second jingle and played it throughout the week to create awareness of child protection and direct listeners to our website. Several key people from the Network were interviewed on CCFM, representing Connect Network, namely Vaughan Stannard, Barbara Clark, Grace Nkomo, Wiseman Zondiwe and Nathan Panti. Those interviewed were given the opportunity to reiterate the importance of protecting children within our spheres of influence and how their own individual organisations were contributing to this cause.

Social Media

Through social media, people were reminded about the importance of each person being an ambassador for Child Protection. They were encouraged to wear green (the official colour of Child Protection Month), showcasing up-to-date - photographs of events our various affiliates held as well as sharing their pages on our home page to increase their exposure to the wider Network and our followers.

Child Protection Community Awareness Events

Our Safe Communities Lead Agents and affiliates conducted Child Protection events in their local communities, engaging the children they reach. Themes centred around empowerment, prevention and equipping, with information on what to do in the case of an incidence of child abuse.

Leading the way - here is a small sample of what some of our affiliates and Lead Agents did during Child Protection Week:

Phambili Community Development

Hosted a Parenting Skills Workshop for 49 attendees in collaboration with other community leaders, Christian Leaders, Strand Police, Amakhaya and Strand Neighbourhood Watch.

Prochorus Community Development

The Prochorus Child Protection Officer organised a campaign in collaboration with Stellcare, held at local ECD centres and primary schools with 265 attendees.

Beautiful Gate

Held a Child Protection day with a candle lighting ceremony. Speakers shared about what constitutes abuse and how to report child abuse. Dancing, marimba bands and knowledgeable speakers ensured that the 250 attendees had a memorable morning.

Living Hope

Held Child Protection events in their five focus communities - Ocean View, Red Hill, Masiphumelele, Capricorn and Overcome Heights. During morning sessions, they presented in ECD Centres and Schools and afternoon events were held outside in parks and open area spaces in the different communities where awareness was spread about bullying and Gender-Based Violence. Speakers included SAPS FCS unit representatives, Social Workers and community workers, as well as personal story-sharing of individuals. They also had social media posts for GBV and bullying awareness raising.



Phambili Community Development



Prochorus Community Development



Beautiful Gate
Page 6



Creating a Community Safe Place, a Soup Kitchen Garden
Photo courtesy of MercyAids, credit to Leentjie du Preez

MercyAids

During May and June, occupational therapy students facilitated two sessions with 15 soup kitchen owners about the importance of creating safe spaces for children and how soup kitchens can become such places. The group came together to outline their training needs and plan a training calendar. In June, volunteers from inside and outside Fisantekraal worked together to plant a community garden to help support the soup kitchens. Eventually, this garden will become a place where children can learn to grow food and resilience skills.

Friends of Child Protection (FOCP)

Shared videos of previous services, articles of interest and Connect Network posts on social media.

Arise Children's Ministry

Held a social media event and posted a blog about why Child Protection is everyone's business and what each person can do to help children in their community.

Village Care Centre

Hosted a 'Raise the Child Protection banner' event at their drop in centre with a devotional time praying for the peace, protection and safety of the children in Lavender Hill. Pamphlets with information about Child Protection and safety guidelines were distributed to the community.

The Sozo Foundation

The psycho-social intervention team hosted critical conversations with their learners. This included discussions on bullying and the duty of all of us to stand up when bullying is taking place.

Hope to the Hopeless

Organised a prayer walk for the protection of children in the community with leaflets handed out to make them fully aware of where they could go if help was needed. 175 Children and 70 parents attended.

Connecting through electronic communication

The bi-weekly info 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 stay connected.

Connecting through partnerships

Mergon Foundation Connect

Connect Network was invited by one of our partners, the Mergon Foundation, to attend the two-day Mergon Connect event held in Cape Town in November 2021 with the leaders of fellow partner organisations. The focus was on reconnecting with each other, ourselves and with God, after a difficult Covid-19 and lockdown period.

Viva International Africa Conference

Connect Network was invited to attend the Viva International Africa Regional Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2022. The Executive Director (Grace Nkomo) and Chairperson (Vaughan Stannard), along with a representative from the NPC (Minah Koela from Beautiful Gate), represented Connect Network. We enjoyed meeting with Viva International and other African network representatives for five days. We learned from each other about current strategies to meet the needs of children in our respective contexts.



Photo courtesy of Arise Family

WE EQUIP

Integral to the purpose of Connect Network is the equipping of organisations that 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.

Quality Improvement System Organisational Capacity Building

The Quality Improvement System (QIS), implemented by Connect Network in partnership with Viva International, has had another milestone year. In 2021, QIS was a key focus area for Connect and the Safe Communities strategy. The 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 well-being in support of Connect's Safe Communities strategy.

Several key changes were introduced to QIS in 2020, which continued to be developed in 2021. Improved accessibility to the training for more organisations was central to the rationale behind the changes. QIS modules were developed and released to the Network on an online platform to ensure that organisations who want to continue strengthening their organisations could do so in an accessible, engaging and user-friendly manner.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding module was again made available to the Network during 2021. In addition to this, much time and resources went into the strategic development of the Governance and Financial Accountability modules, as well as the verification process.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding module was released to the Network on the Learner Management System in February 2021, and **48** organisations enrolled (**96** individuals) during 2021-2022. The Governance module was released to the Network on the Learner Management System in August 2021, and **23** organisations (**56** individuals) registered during 2021-2022. The Financial Accountability module was released to the Network on the Learner Management System in August 2021, and **12** organisations (**28** individuals) registered during 2021-2022. These **83** organisations enrolled demonstrate a significant improvement on the previous reach of QIS, which was approximately 16 organisations per module in a two-year cycle.

The QIS modules are a great resource to equip NGOs and their teams with the skills to ensure implementation of best practises in key areas such as child protection and financial management. This allows organisations to stand out as beacons of excellence in the NGO sector and set high standards for the industry.

Grant Edmond - Just Grace



Beautiful Gate QIS Verification

QIS assisted us in identifying gaps in our systems and providing much-needed support and training to help us strengthen our organisational systems and procedures. Our staff morale has improved as they, too, can upskill themselves through the various training options available.

We are on a path to ensuring that our services to our beneficiaries are of the highest quality, and QIS played an important role in these improvements. We thank God that we are affiliated with Connect Network.

Wendy Abrahams - Advance Edukos Foundation

Current Lead Agents, new Lead Agents and potential Lead Agents attended the QIS online modules. They were supported to achieve their improvement goals and verification achievements through mentoring and support from the Network office. Lead Agents were also encouraged to use the QIS modules as a tool to invite fellow community organisations to join them to ensure that they had their policies in place for the protection and safeguarding of children and, in this way, also encouraged the development of the Safe Community networks.

Two graduations were held for all organisations with 80% participation or had reached the improvements they set as their goals or reached Bronze level during verification. 15 Bronze level verifications were awarded.

Verification by module

Further changes were introduced to the QIS verification process, such as having a modular focus and changes to the levels of verification. Organisations can now complete QIS one module at a time and achieve verification per module. In addition, 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 have benefited greatly from the QIS process. Besides the well-structured trainings that were presented by people who are experts in their fields, the follow-up mentor sessions have helped us to see which structures/policies we need to put in place in order to run our organisation with excellence.

As a "newly founded" NGO we are thankful that we could use the QIS in order to lay a strong foundation for the years to come.

We would highly recommend the QIS to you and know that your organisation will benefit from this excellent programme.

Salome Geiger - Free to Fly



Trauma-Informed workshops

Under the direction of the Trauma-Informed working group, Trauma-Informed training was continued within the Network with the staff of Connect affiliates. Following the Leaders Forum, a 2-session zoom workshop was held, giving input on Trauma-Informed work for organisations. Over 100 individuals from affiliate organisations attended. Judy Strickland from Hope House facilitated the training. The workshops were well received, and individuals within organisations are now better able to understand the impact and effects of trauma with those they work with, as well as how to handle these effects.

“The information shared became part of how I address trauma, and continues to play a pivotal role in how we, as an NPO deal with victims of trauma. Overall it was very useful to be made aware of creating safe spaces where people can feel totally at ease to share traumatic experiences and ultimately have the space to heal. Thank you for all that you do. We appreciate you linking all organisations in order to add value to Community Development.”
Tracy Valentine - Siyakhula

Telephone mentoring

As this period still included periods of Covid-19 lockdown, Connect Network partner Viva International provided funding and materials for telephone mentoring to be conducted by network affiliates when face-to-face engagement was challenging. The training was facilitated by Connect Network affiliate, Think Twice, and six organisations participated in the telephone mentoring process. Materials included outlines on how to deal with Covid and associated challenges such as grief and loss.

Small grants

Small grants were given to affiliates during this period for food and nutritional support, as well as a Christmas party grant in partnership with Viva International.



Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

Connect Network embarked on a journey to equip organisations to deal with Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in a Trauma-Informed manner. Emerging from the Trauma-Informed work already begun in the Network, 11 Safe Communities began a process of gaining a deeper understanding of trauma within our communities and systems and the impact of this trauma on those we work with. This initiative aims to ensure that organisations can better support those affected by GBVF in their care. Importantly, each organisation will develop a new initiative with a GBVF focus during the duration of this process. In a truly collaborative initiative, six Connect Network affiliate organisations from the Network were involved in the curriculum design and input was received from an additional three specialist organisations, namely Tearfund, Thando Trust and R-Cubed.

“The work-shops are loaded with mind blowing information that can transform communities if it can be embedded in our programs and intervention. People will experience a different kind of impact that can shape a community to be more functional and more regulated.”
Nathan Panti - Living Hope

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-19 and crisis responses and the engagement with QIS training provided opportunities for collaboration as 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 in the Western Cape and beyond.

KwaZulu-Natal Relief

In August 2021 South Africa experienced unprecedented rioting. Fueled by long-term hunger, poverty and inequality, political tension resulted in major upheaval in South Africa. The rioting was primarily focused in the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province, with the Gauteng province also affected, resulting in widespread destruction, including looting, burning of buildings (with many factories and warehouses damaged) and the interruption of supply chains. Many communities across KZN could not access any food and other vital supplies.

Connect Network, being based in the Western Cape, was less affected by the riots, and we mobilised support to vulnerable communities within KZN. Stepping out in faith, we began a campaign to send supplies to those most affected by the recent riots in partnership with generous donors.

After discussions with various stakeholders in KZN, where the most pressing needs were identified, it was decided that partnerships with One Voice South Africa (OVSA) and KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) were to be supported. This decision was based on these being areas of pressing need, as well as the organisational infrastructure to support the communities and families affected. After reviewing the capacity of the organisations to reach their communities, as well as access to supplies, 2 different strategies were employed.

A Connect Network affiliate organisation, MercyAids, worked tirelessly with the Connect team to secure and deliver a 30-ton truck from Gauteng, filled with Makro food supplies items for 618 families. Once filled, the truck drove the approximately 7-hour drive from Johannesburg to Mtunzini to deliver the foodstuff and essential items. OVSA coordinated with the local councillor, Indunas (community leaders), Medicines sans Frontiers and others to ensure that the food parcels were effectively and efficiently delivered to the families that had been identified as being in most need. Distribution had to take place immediately after the truck arrived to avoid the risk of theft and conflict around food distribution. Each of these parcels contained food that would sustain a family for at least a week.

Discussions were held with the KZNCC to decide the best way to ensure that the most vulnerable within their affected communities were reached with food supplies. The most vulnerable were identified as child-headed households from 10 districts. It was decided that vouchers for retailers would be viable, working through a database that KZNCC already had. This would then allow the recipients to purchase what they needed. However, it was ultimately decided by the KZNCC to purchase the food for parcels and deliver it themselves to the recipients. This was because a number of the retailers (Spar and Checkers) did not have stock available, and they reverted to purchasing from the retailer, Boxer, and distributing the food to beneficiaries themselves (by KZNCC transport).



Child Ambassadors

Meetings were held in 2021 with representatives from Lead Agent organisations to strategise, envision and give input on child participation and the child ambassadors programme. It was agreed that it is vital that space is given for the voices of children to be heard and their agency recognised. To achieve this, caregivers within organisations and communities need to understand the dynamics of child participation and explore how it can be implemented within their spheres. It was established that parents also need to be engaged, and these meetings also found ways in which this can be done.

Strategic meetings

Key community organisations are central to the Connect Network Safe Communities strategy, referred to as Lead Agents. In addition to serving their communities as Lead Agents, the leaders of these organisations also serve as Connect Network Non-Profit Company members. Strategic meetings were held throughout the year to ensure that the Connect Network strategy continues to be relevant and impactful for local communities. 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.

One of the strategic meetings held during 2021 was the Connect Network AGM with a small event held at Middelvlei. The Board and NPC members were all re-elected.

Prayer meetings

Due to lockdown restrictions, instead of the traditional prayer breakfasts, during 2020, prayer meetings were started and held online. These have continued through 2021 and into 2022 and have been well attended by Connect affiliates who were able to unite around issues that women and children are dealing with, as well as share, pray and receive support for the challenges they were facing.



Photo Courtesy of Life Child



NETWORK

EQUIP

COLLABORATE

ADVOCATE

WE ADVOCATE

Advocacy promotes justice, social inclusion, equality and human rights. With organisations within the network with the same heart to see positive change in the lives of the vulnerable, Connect Network is well placed to use our collective voice to advocate.

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 mobilising various stakeholders within the Western Cape to ensure that the rights of children are protected and needs met.

South African National Child Rights Commission (SANCRG)

Connect Network continued to be part of the South African National Child Rights Commission (SANCRG), with one of the founding members being a Connect Network affiliate. The SANCRG is an advocacy and communications coalition to support coordinated action for effective child rights governance in South Africa.

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

The Non-Profit Company members' role is to determine the goals and strategy of the Network. The NPC members for 2021/22 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.



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 remuneration either through employment or a contract.



Beverley Stoffberg
Chief Finance Officer



Priscilla Muller
Network and Finance Administrator



Lindy Johnson
Network Office Administrator



Siyolisile Waters
QIS Development Project Coordinator



Heather McNeil
GBVF Project Coordinator



Colin Walker
QIS Project Team



Sophie Olivier
Fundraising Contractor



Michelle Kempster
QIS Development Project Coordinator

“Connect Network, through their wide network of non-profit entities, is at the forefront of innovative and collaborative efforts to equip and empower the sector towards the wellbeing and safety of woman and children in South Africa.
Jan Scannell - Prochorus”



Photo courtesy of Thembalitsha Foundation

Connect Network Community

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

360 Transformation	Living Hope Trust
ACVV Bright Lights	Matla-a-bana
ACVV Somerset West	Ma's vir Wellington
Advance Edukos Foundation	MeCAHT
Anchored Hope	Mercy Aids/Resilient Kids
Arise Family	Metro Kids Africa
Bayakhanya Foundation	Naomi's Joy
Beautiful Gate International	Open Doors NPC
Beautiful Gate SA	Open Schools World Wide
Beauty for Ashes	Paarl Youth Initiative
Beth Rapha Home of Healing	Percy Bartley House
Bridges of Hope SA	Phambili Community Development
Bridging Abilities	Philippi Children's Centre
Carehaven Salvation Army	Philippi Trust SA
Choices Centre	Prochorus Community Development
Circle of Unity	S-Cape Home (JusticeActs)
Common Good Foundation	SA Cares for Life
Heaven on Earth Projects	Safeline Child Abuse & Treatment Centre
Eagles Nest Ministries	Salt & Light Kids Discipleship
Emyezweni Pre-school	Scripture Union Western Cape
Ethel's Place	Seasons Crisis pregnancy Centre
Film School Africa	Sikhula Sonke
Friends of Child Protection	Sisters Incorporated
Free To Fly	Siyakhula SA
Good Hope Psychological Services	St Annes Home
Heatherdale Children's Homes	Thembalisha Foundation
Heart2Heart Care Centre	Tereo Project
Helderberg Development Centre	Thando Trust
Home of Compassion Minisitries	The Ark City of Refuge
Hope House Counselling Centre	The Father's Heart Community Development NPC
Hope Prison Ministries	The Healing Heart Foundation
Hope to the Hopeless	The Sozo Foundation
Ikhaya le Themba Home based care	Think Twice
Joya Homes and Educare Centre	Touch Community Network
Jubilee Health Centre	Trinity Childrens Centre
Just Grace NPC	Tshireletso Ya Sechaba NPC
Kibwe Kids	True North Consulting NPC
Kichi	UCSA United Christian Students Association (UCSA)
Kin Culture	uThando leNkosi
Kingdom Vision Bible School	Valcare Trust
Kings and Queens	Village Care Centre
Kuyasa Horison Empowerment	Vineyard Houses
Lerato's Hope	Warrior Woman
LifeChild	Western Cape Street Children's Forum
	World Vision Atlantis

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 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 has 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.



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. Their partnership with Connect Network is supporting the Safe Community Strategy for children.



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.



Viva International is a world-wide network of Christians working with children at risk operating in 28 different countries, supporting thousands of projects working with children at risk in 39 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 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

Beautiful Gate South Africa
Beryl Britten
Cheryl Anderson
Claytile (Pty) Ltd
DG Murray Trust
Elmarie Becker
Garth Spencer-Smith
GEOSS SA (Pty) Ltd
Hannah Selfridge
Imperial Clearing and Forwarding
Logistics SA (Pty) Ltd

Jubilee Community Church
Lee-Ann De La Hunt
Louise van Niekerk
Mergon Foundation
NG Kerk Stellenbosch-Wes
Nicole Stephens
Robyn Williams
Rodolfo Bruno
Santam
The Isipho Trust
The Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation
The Sowers Trust
Tshikhululu Social Investments
Virginia De La Hunt

Donors – Overseas

Kerk In Actie
Viva Network

Donations In Kind

CCFM
Fine Music Radio
QIS Mentors from within the Network
Scripture Union
Smile FM

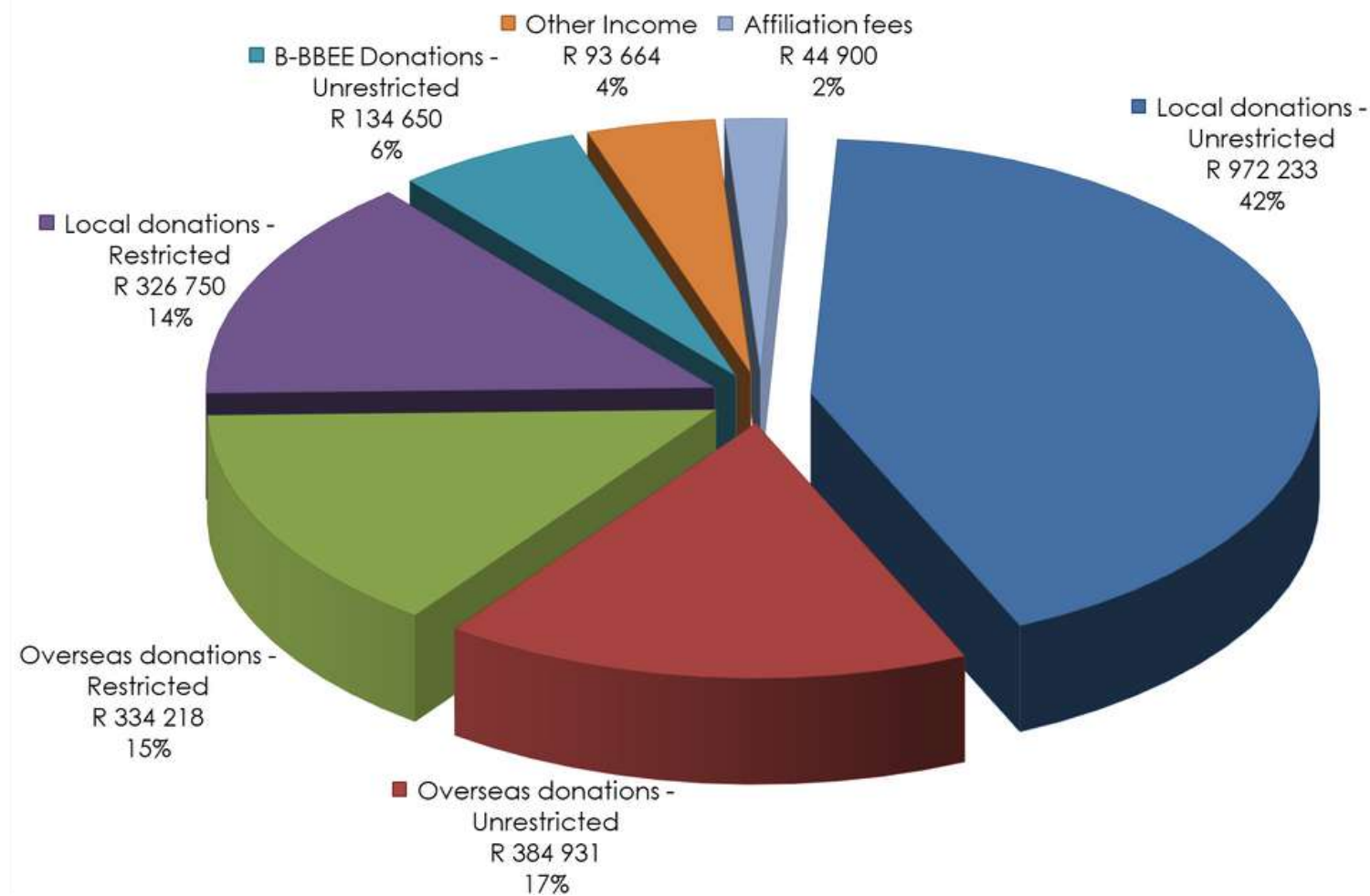
Calendar Donors

Cape Agricultural Products (Pty) Ltd
Cebano Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Claytile (Pty) Ltd
Geoss SA (Pty) Ltd
Ikapa Impact (Pty) Ltd
Purple Line Plastics (Pty) Ltd
Rawson Residential Franchises (Pty) Ltd
South African Christian Directory
Social Causes (Pty) Ltd
The Isipho Trust

Finances

Income

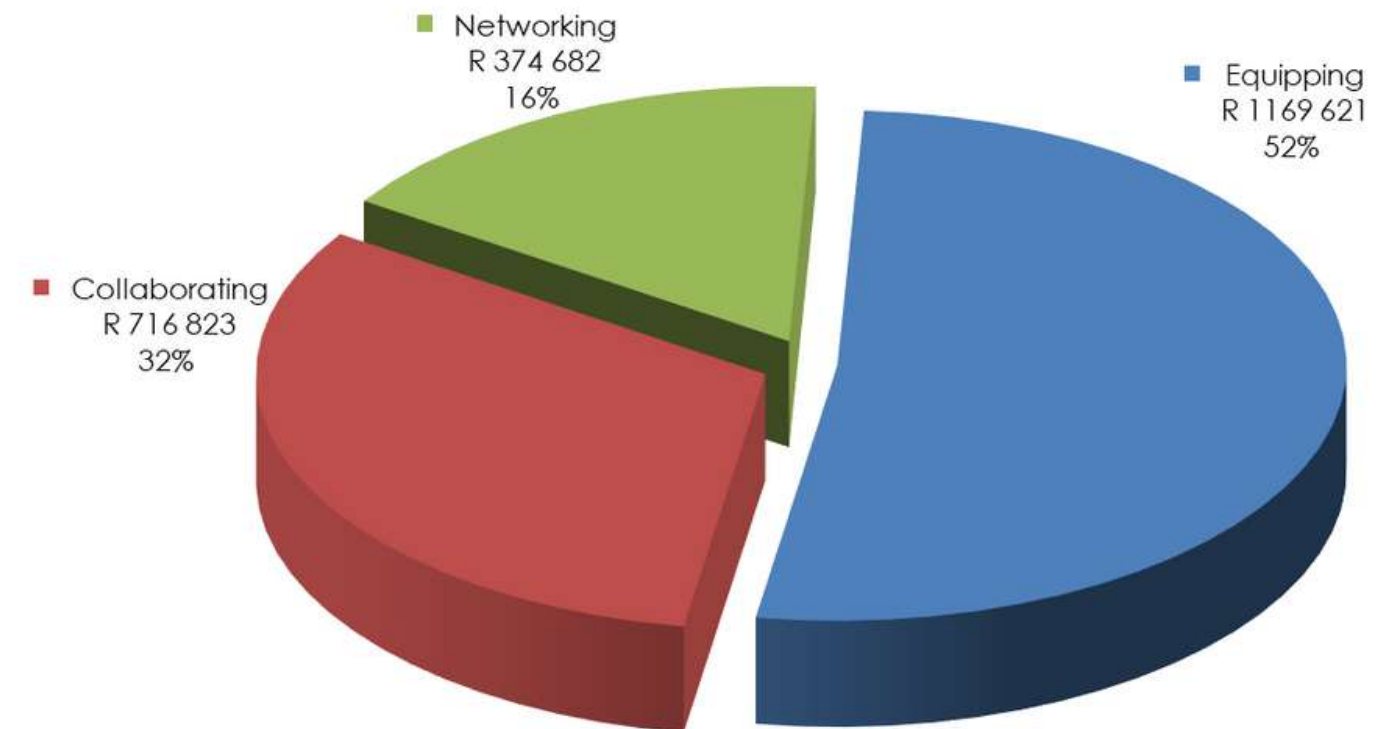
2022: R2,291,346
2021: R3,409,437



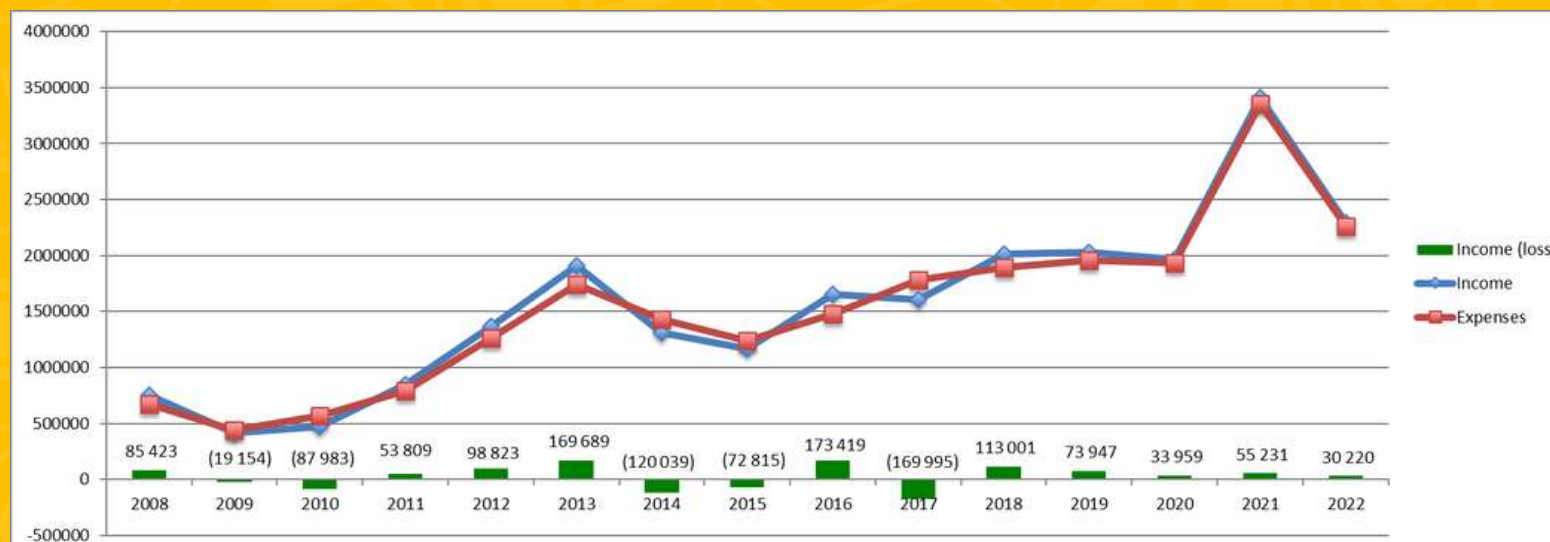
Approximately R100,000 was contributed to the overall Network income through donations in-kind including volunteer time, equipment loaned for free and donated meeting spaces & resources. This equates to 4% of our financial income for the year of R2,291,346. 2% was raised through affiliation fees, 66% was raised through local donations & fundraising and 32% through foreign donations. It is wonderful to see so much money being raised locally, thus demonstrating immense local support for the work being carried out by the network.

Expenditure

2022: R2,261,126
2021: R3,354,206



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 a clear emphasis on Equipping & Collaborating through trainings, workshops and partnerships. 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 through equipping the network. It also reflects our adaptability and resilience in a changing and volatile funding environment. During this year there has been an emphasis on equipping and collaborating. We focused our work on equipping the network through leadership forums, trauma-informed workshops and the digitisation of QIS while collaborating largely took the shape of food aid to the KZN in their time of need, through partnerships within the network and beyond. We also saw the launch of our GBVF project emerging from our trauma informed workshops. The QIS digitisation work resulted in 3 training modules being offered on our LMS platform. We have also continued work on our grant writing and digital marketing to increase our appeal to potential donors for the longer term. 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

NPO: 040-987 • PBO: 930031187 (Section 18A Status)

PO Box 1005, Somerset West 7129, South Africa • +27 (0)21 852 9900

info@connectnetwork.org.za • www.connectnetwork.org.za

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 True North and photographer @FrancFinds

Back cover photograph courtesy of Just Grace



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

