ANNUAL REPORT 2023

PARTNERING WITH
RURAL ORGANISATIONS
FOR 39 YEARS

SOCIAL CHANGE
ASSISTANCE TRUST

ABOUT SCAT

VISION

A South Africa with vibrant, sustainable rural communities.

MISSION

To collaborate with Local Development Agencies to establish robust institutions that advance social justice, promote gender equality, and empower women and youth as leaders. This partnership addresses critical intersecting priorities, including access to justice, the fight to end GBV, the promotion of food security, and resilience to climate change.

MODEL

SCAT's approach includes core funding for the running costs of LDAs, project funding for thematic areas, micro-grants for workshops and campaigns and organisational development (Development Fund for Training) and incentives for local fundraising (Fundraising Incentive Scheme - FRIS). SCAT supports LDAs as strong institutions in their communities through capacity building in organisational development and on-site mentorship. In addition, SCAT provides training in relevant content areas, technology, and data to enable our LDA partners to be effective and responsive.

Local Development Agencies (LDAs) are community-based organisations set up and governed by people from the community where they are located. Using their unique community knowledge, they seek solutions to improve the quality of life of people in their locality. LDAs drive inclusive development by collaborating with others, including the government, other CBOs and NGOs, religious and traditional leaders, and businesses. LDAs are conscious of the gendered dimensions of development.

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Cover picture: Merweville Advice & Development Office building a ferro cement tank, July 2023, Ruan Vorster
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: THE SOCIAL CHANGE ASSISTANCE TRUST - A REVIEW OF 2023

Lorenzo Wakefield

I write these reflections after having recently returned from work visits to Sierra Leone and Kenya. My day job involves supporting people-centered justice and legal empowerment work in various countries in Africa, including these two and South Africa. And while I don't purport to be an expert in this work or the context within which it takes place in these countries, I think it bears some reflection on the state of access to justice and legal empowerment.

In Sierra Leone and Kenya – as in South Africa – most people do not access justice through the formal court systems, which are generally inaccessible, costly, and time-consuming. There are instances where these institutions are critical, but as long as they remain inaccessible, they are futile for people's primary justice needs. In all these countries, we see several innovations with the purpose of scaling primary justice services.

In Sierra Leone, they have citizen advice bureaus and community paralegals (all managed by the country's legal aid board) providing essential legal advice and assistance. In Kenya, the chief justice is championing a multifaceted people-centered justice approach through the implementation of its Social Transformation through Access to Justice Blueprint. This blueprint acknowledges that community justice institutions and other alternative justice mechanisms are as crucial as courts in providing justice services. And in South Africa, our community advice offices (CAOs) are critical in the delivery of justice to poor and marginalised people.

During 2023, the Social Change Assistance Trust (or SCAT, as we like to call it) remained a vital funder and capacity builder of CAOs in the provinces where it works. SCAT granted R16,659,269 to local development agencies (LDAs), most of them CAOs, in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, and Limpopo provinces. The team conducted multiple workshops and pieces of training for community institutions and, together with other partners, successfully organised the 2023 Dullah Omar School (DOS) for Paralegalism. Over 100 community paralegals benefited from the DOS.

In addition to the grants and accompaniment, the team also arranged several climate change learning festivals, Women in Leadership Fellowship activities, and other events to reflect, strategise, and take action on how best to address the

systemic injustices faced by the rural communities that LDAs serve. The trustees and I attended several of these events, including the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign on 23 November, which was organised in collaboration with the Irish Embassy. Participants in this event included the Irish Ambassador to South Africa, the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, and equally important panelists from communities working directly on violence against women and children. The Sisterhood Collective – which consists of girls from the Klapmuts/ Stellenbosch area – presented a powerful and moving rendition of violence and patriarchy that is deeply embedded in our society. The same rendition was performed at the Ford Foundation's inaugural Film and Arts Festival in Johannesburg.

Financially, the Trust continued to do well and exceeded expectations in both fundraising and governance. During 2023, we appointed new investment advisors with a clear mandate to not invest in companies and commodities that cause harm to people and planet. We also invested in a new private equity fund managed by Ditikeni and Vunani Securities called the Transformation Fund. In keeping with our commitment to transparency, our financial statements, which speak for themselves, can be found in this annual report. Needless to say, as we continue to grow, more resources are needed because injustices in rural communities remain stark.

The trustees had four formal meetings during 2023, including the AGM. We had an average attendance of 85% across all meetings. This speaks to the dedication of the trustees and the team. We don't take this for granted.

And finally, I would like to thank the trustees for their devoted voluntary service in fulfilling their governance and oversight mandate. I would also like to thank the staff for their unwavering commitment to their work and SCAT's purpose. They make our jobs lighter and easier, despite the increase in work. Our donors have continued to grow. We thank them for their confidence in SCAT's ability to support community institutions in rural communities in South Africa. Last, but certainly not least, we thank the LDAs, their management committees, and staff who are genuinely committed to making life better for those in their communities. Your work is not in vain, and your efforts are seen, acknowledged, and supported.

"... in South Africa, our community advice offices (CAOs) are critical in the delivery of justice to poor and marginalised people."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr Joanne Harding

SCAT's work is a collaborative effort, deeply intertwined with local development agencies (LDAs), unique community-based organisations in rural communities. In partnership with local government, businesses, and community groups, these LDAs identify and address the distinct needs of their communities. SCAT's role is to support and empower these organisations in pursuing access to justice, gender justice, climate change resilience, and youth empowerment. Through targeted programmes, LDAs are at the forefront of promoting inclusive development, reducing poverty, and empowering communities for long-term resilience.

In 2023, the SCAT staff and trustees, working with the results of the 2022 evaluation, took a proactive and decisive stance. We didn't just react to the problems that rural communities where we work face, but took the lead in developing a new strategic plan to address them. We identified corruption as a major threat to development. Corruption Watch's Annual Report in 2021 highlighted types of corruption that affect the country; local municipalities are one of the most affected institutions.

Although corruption is not mentioned in the SA Constitution, several provisions directly connect to it. These include S (32(1)(a)(b), which provides for the right of access to information; S 33(1)-(2), which includes the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair, and S 182(1)(a), which gives the Public Protector power to investigate any conduct in state affairs or in the public administration of any sphere of government that is alleged or suspected to be improper. Also relevant are S195, which outlines fundamental values and principles governing public administration; S215, which requires national, provincial, and municipal budgets and processes to promote transparency, accountability and effective fiscal management; and S217, which provides the constitutional basis for public procurement.

In partnership with Corruption Watch and Transparency International, SCAT secured funding from the European Union for a programme in the Eastern Cape that targets corruption in local government. The programme is not just a general initiative; it focuses on specific actions. It includes training CBOs on corruption, its forms and effects, and whistleblowing; it provides micro-grants for community workshops and campaigns and core grants for CBOs to participate in corruption risk assessments and implement their plans to create awareness of corruption in their communities. The CBOs will not just be passive participants; they will nominate Youth Ambassadors for Accountability who will receive training and stipends to run workshops with youth in their communities on accountability and the effects of corruption in their areas.

Another risk to rural communities is the effects of climate change. Over the past three years, we have partnered with SAFCEI (Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute) and Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) on a programme called Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR), funded mainly by the European Union.

Two of the most recent products of this programme have been a publication and an evaluation. The publication is a beautiful documentation of this project's many achievements. The evaluation shows that the project, which reached more than its target of 30 rural communities, effectively increased knowledge of climate change and actions to build resilience. It also increased the involvement of women and youth in responding to climate resilience. We are grateful that the Irish Embassy has provided funds to continue this programme in 2024.

I had the opportunity to visit one of the LDAs participating in the RACR project, Merweville Advice and Development Organisation (MADO), which received a core grant from the project, with Claire Tapscott, our Climate Change Programme Coordinator, and Indiphile Matini, the project's Programme Assistant. It was humbling to see how MADO, located in a semi-desert area, worked hard against difficult odds to set up an agroecology food garden. When we visited the garden, we saw three ferrocement tanks built by the people in the project and furrows ready for planting. The group we met with was enthusiastic about what a garden of this nature would do for their community, but it has faced many developmental challenges. One of these is the response of the local municipality to water issues in the area and securing land for the project. They have also had opposition to their project from groups in the community, which hindered progress. The LDA came together with two other LDAs in the Karoo – Beaufort West Legal Advice and Development Organisation (BWLADO) and Nelspoort Advice and Development Organisation (NADO) – and made a submission to CoGTA on the response of their local government to issues of ensuring their communities are resilient to climate change.

Local Development Agencies in rural areas are often the only organisations responding to social justice issues. Without these organisations, many problems would go unnoticed and unaddressed. For example, GBV survivors would not have the support of paralegals who advocate for their rights. Staff in SCAT-funded LDAs share stories of assisting survivors by taking them into their own homes for lack of shelter in the community, or driving many kilometres with a rape victim to get them to a district surgeon to take a rape kit. The people working in LDAs are paralegals, counsellors, activists and development practitioners. Most are not recognised for their critical work, which also involves taking women home to provide them with a safe refuge in the absence of shelters for women and Thuthuzela Centres in the areas where we work. In doing so, the paralegals put their own lives at risk, as we know that the most dangerous time for women survivors of domestic violence is when they leave their partner, the perpetrator. We ended 2023 with a GBV symposium in preparation for 16 Days of Activism. At this summit, we learned about the importance of fighting misinformation on social media and how to use social media to challenge norms contributing to GBV. LDAs submitted claims for their GBV prevention campaigns after the seminar. We also held an event where the Irish Ambassador, Austin Gormley, and Deputy Minister of Justice John Jeffery both spoke.

The Dutch Embassy, the Irish Embassy and the Ford Foundation have supported our Women in Leadership Programme. In April, the Dutch Ambassador met with LDAs in the Northern Cape (Tsantsabane and Kgatelopele Local Municipalities) and the women who have benefited from the programme. The LDAs and the women

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosting 17 capacity building opportunities/workshops across five provinces, training a total of 480 participants. This number includes 166 people participating in permaculture training in four provinces.
- Twenty young people from Limpopo graduating from the Level 1 Business Skills Management Course and 10-month Learnership Programme.
- Joint permaculture training with John Nzira for SCAT staff and members of the Ubuntu Rural Womxn and Youth Movement in Elsenburg. Watch the video on SCAT's social media and on @scatrural on YouTube.
- Hosting Dutch Ambassador Han Peters' visit to Postmasburg and Danielskuil where he met graduates from the first cohort of the Women in Leadership programme.
- Rolling out the second version of the Women in Leadership Programme with 29 participants in Cape Town in September.
- The second RACR Learning Festival from 29 August to 1 September.
- A photo exhibit and video screening of RACR grantee activities at the RACR Learning Festival on 31 August.
- A "Women in the Just Transition" panel discussion with partners SAFCEI and Heinrich Böll Foundation on 31 August at the RACR Learning Festival
- Collaborating with Ubuntu Rural Womxn and Youth Movement's Sisterhood project to produce a performance piece and video for the Ford Foundation's inaugural Film and Arts Festival in Johannesburg. The film is on our website and YouTube channel, @scatrural.
- Marking the UN Women's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign with a workshop and a joint event with the Embassy of Ireland. Speakers included HE Austin Gormley, Ireland's Ambassador to South Africa, and John Jeffery, South Africa's Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. The event featured a performance by Ubuntu's Sisterhood. A video of the event is available on our social media and YouTube channel, @scatrural.

indicated that they valued the experience of having the Ambassador come to their communities, which are seldom on the map of dignitaries. It was inspirational to hear about the Women in Leadership programme's impact on the lives of women who claim that they are empowered to stand up for themselves and make their voices heard.

SCAT's funding increased in 2023 to R38,869,808 from R29,144,445 in 2022 with additional funding from Tshikululu Trust as part of the COVID Rebuild Programme in Limpopo, Investec for flood response in the Eastern Cape, and DGMT for a programme in the Free State surrounding the Letsatsi Solar Power Park. This enabled us to increase the number of CBOs supported to 61. In addition to increased funding, our reserves have grown. In addition to the dividends we earn from our investments, we continue to receive generous dividends from our investments in Ditikeni. This ensures that SCAT has a safety net for periods of possible downturn in funding and enables us to fund projects for which we have not been able to secure financing. SCAT is committed to ensuring we are a responsible investor. As a result, we are a member of Active Shareholder, a non-profit company that helps responsible shareholders exercise their company right to vote at listed companies' annual general meetings. We are grateful for the loyal support of our funders who make it possible to support the LDAs. We continuously learn from our interactions with donors who bring different perspectives to the work and help us make useful connections.

As an intermediary funder, SCAT is committed to building the philanthropy sector and is a member of the Independent Philanthropy Association of South Africa (IPASA) and WINGs. I am currently the vice chairperson of IPASA. Along with our Programme Director and Programme Manager, I attended the WINGs Forum in Nairobi in 2023. I also attended the #Shift the Power Summit in Bogota, Colombia, and the IPASA symposium along with our Programme Manager. All these symposia were learning and networking opportunities.

The SCAT staff is critical to the organisation's success. We are grateful for every member of our team and their contribution to this organisation, which is nearing its 40th year of existence. In 2023, the trustees appointed Nokukhanya Mchunu to the management team. After five years as a Programme Officer working in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, Khanya has demonstrated her leadership ability. The position Khanya now occupies, Programme Manager for Learning, Research and Advocacy, was born out of our evaluation, which identified the need for this role. We are also committed to the professional development of young people, and each year for the past four years, we have had one of our two interns join our team as permanent staff members.

SCAT's trustees steer the ship and ensure that we stay on track. They volunteer their time to attend subcommittee meetings in preparation for Trust meetings and provide guidance when needed. It is always hard to say goodbye to trustees who leave the organisation after bringing the necessary skills to the team. Last year, Sue Anderson, who had been with us for fifteen years and had served as chairperson, finance committee chairperson, and vice chair, decided it was time to make way for new people. Similarly, Jeremy Chennells, who had been with us for six years, decided not to renew his position on the board. Jeremy led the HR sub-committee

and made a valuable contribution, bringing his wealth of knowledge from this field. We are pleased to welcome Nomathamsanqa Masiko-Mpaka to the board. Noma has experience in both the funding and the human rights sector, particularly in gender.

We look forward to another exciting, challenging, and fruitful year in 2024, the year when SCAT celebrates 40 years of funding social justice and human rights organisations across South Africa, specifically in rural areas. The country faces many changes in the coming year, including a vital election after 30 years of democracy. The LDAs will play an essential role in ensuring peace in their communities and the protection of human rights. SCAT will continue to ensure we do our best to support these LDAs with funding, mentorship and support as we collectively aim to ensure justice for all, particularly those most marginalised in rural communities.

Sunduza Beekeepers – Herschel Legal Advice Centre

1 & 2 Planting at Berlin Advice Centre foodgarden

Food gardeners at Dordrecht

Dordrecht staff, volunteers and local farmers

Suzeka Mavumengwana and Viwe Sunduza, Sunduza Beekeepers

Sunduza Beekeepers

Limpopo food garden training

8 & 9 Building a ferrocement tank at Merweville

GBV Workshop, November 2023

HE Austin Gormley, Ireland's Ambassador to South Africa 16 Days of Activism Against GBV event

Asisithi Zihlangu, 16 Days of Activism Against GBV event

Sisterhood Performance, 16 Days of Activism Against GBV event

16 Days of Activism Against GBV event

Sisterhood, 16 Days of Activism Against GBV event

Kabelo Moratwe, RARC Learning Festival

Khanya Mchunu, SCAT X Ubuntu RWYM, Elsenburg

Nkosazana Mrubata, RACR Learning Festival

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Seth Tladi

Seaitsiwe (Seth) Tladi is the SCAT Programmes Director, responsible for managing SCAT funding and capacity building programmes for SCAT-supported community-based organisations. Seth currently manages a team of nine programme staff who support, monitor, and provide capacity building to SCAT-funded partner organisations.

Another Year of Growth and Expansion

In 2023 SCAT grant funding continued to support our partner organisations, which we refer to as Local Development Agencies (LDAs), to render services and programmes that address access to justice, human rights, youth, women empowerment, gender, climate change, and food security.

The overriding theme for 2023 was expansion and growth: there was remarkable growth in the number of CBOs supported, programme officers, grant funding support, and special projects funded by SCAT. The number of LDAs increased by 27%, from 48 in 2022 to 61 by the end of 2023. The number of special projects across the five provinces grew by 63%, from seven to eleven. The Free State and Limpopo provinces saw the biggest increase in LDA numbers due to additional special project funding (see Table 1).

Table 1: Number of LDAs per province in 2022 and 2023

Name of Province	2022	2023	% Growth
Eastern Cape	21	21	0%
Free State	4	10	150%
Limpopo	9	14	56%
Northern Cape	5	7	40%
Western Cape	9	9	0%
TOTAL	48	61	27%

Grant Funding Support

SCAT funds its partners through four categories of grants: monthly or quarterly core grants, special projects grants, a Fundraising Incentive Scheme (FRIS) and the Development Fund for Training (DFT) grant.

Core grant funding in 2023

In 2023, LDAs received monthly core grants ranging from R10,000 to R13,000, depending on the requirements of the funder's budget. In line with the growth in the number of partners we support, our core grant funding grew 42% from

R6,013m in 2022 to R8,679m in 2023. These funds enabled the LDAs to keep their doors open, render much-needed access to justice services, implement community development projects, and meet their monthly operational obligations such as salaries and stipends, communications, transportation, and office rental.

DFT grants in 2023

Forty-three of the 61 LDAs claimed a total of R404,401 in DFT grants for community awareness workshops in their respective communities. These included workshops to create awareness of the impact of climate change, community workshops on gender-based violence incidents offered by 27 LDAs, human rights, and women and youth empowerment. The workshops were attended by on average 40 community members.

FRIS awards in 2023

Seventeen LDAs claimed a total of R188,625 in FRIS grants as a result of fundraising events held in their communities, ranging from the sale of food, raffle tickets and items made by their staff and volunteers, donations from community members and local businesses. The funds raised by LDAs contribute to covering shortfalls in operational costs such as salaries for staff, stipends for volunteers, and project implementation.

Special grants in 2023

Special projects grants were paid to LDAs coordinating and supporting projects such as food gardens, youth development, and the youth learnership project in Limpopo. The funds were used to drill for water, build water tanks, acquire tools, equipment, fencing and other accessories needed to sustain their projects. This included stipends for volunteer gardeners working in the various communal food garden projects. In line with the relevant SETA requirements for learnerships, R700,000 in the form of monthly R3,500 stipends over 10 months were paid to the 20 young people participating in the Limpopo youth learnership project. The stipends covered the learners' traveling, meals, and other incidental expenses during their week-long theory sessions and helped to ensure that they completed the learnership.

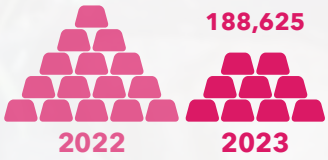
Climate change awareness project grants in 2023

Eight climate change micro-grants totalling R64,000 were paid to eight CBOs and faith-based organisations for small climate change awareness projects, food garden workshops for community members, and to purchase seeds and gardening tools for community gardens. In addition, eight LDAs each received R200,000 macro-grants towards climate change projects in their communities. The funds were used for projects such as establishing climate-adaptive food gardens and bee-keeping initiatives, and for clearing alien vegetation. This has resulted in greater awareness of the effects of climate change and how communities could respond to the challenges experienced.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

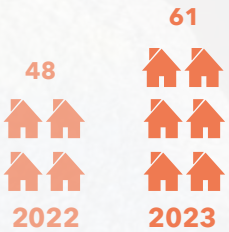
Core Grants to LDAs

FRIS Grants to LDAs



DFT Grants to LDAs

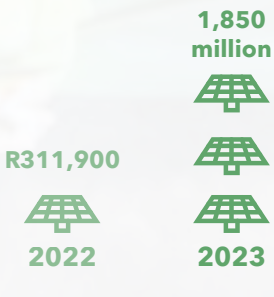
No of CBOs & LDAs Supported



Youth Development Grants

Food Security Grants

Climate Change Grants



Food security funding in 2023

An estimated 510 community members benefitted from produce harvested from three food garden projects in Alicedale in the Eastern Cape, and Pampierstad and Daniëlskuil in the Northern Cape, all funded by the Woolworths Trust. Each of the three LDAs received R62,000 for seeds, equipment, and volunteers' stipends. Three more food garden projects were successfully implemented and supported in three CBOs in Polokwane that are part of the Limpopo Livelihood project. SCAT funded these projects through the Anglo-American Platinum funding for Limpopo. A total of 39 staff and volunteers in the projects benefitted from training and support provided by SCAT staff and technical experts.

Online connectivity support

The CBOs we support continue to receive mobile data packages so that they can access the Internet, participate in virtual workshops and seminars, send emails, and perform online reporting. This support has also improved the LDAs' response time to communication from their Programme Officers and their administration and reporting.

Capacity-building in 2023

A total of 480 LDA and CBO staff and management committee members participated in 17 capacity-building workshops and RACR seminars. Topics included NPO governance and management, financial management, project management, basic computer training, fundraising, the climate change regional workshop, and a learning festival for CBO staff and management committee members. SCAT also engaged the services of Mr. John Nzira to assist with facilitating climate-resilient farming methods (permaculture) training for LDA staff and volunteers working on the food garden projects. In addition, four small business entrepreneurs were taken through a New Venture training programme by Creativdad, an accredited training provider contracted by SCAT.

The annual Dullah Omar School for Paralegalism, which in 2023 addressed the theme "Climate, Economic and Electoral Readiness", was held in Durban for 120 community-based paralegals. Twenty of these paralegals were from SCAT-funded LDAs. The School aimed to equip community-based paralegals with knowledge, skills and tools to provide informed and relevant paralegal services to their clients.

Twenty-nine women leaders attached to SCAT-funded CBOs began the second iteration of our Women in Leadership (WiL) Programme in September 2023, attending the first of four modules held over five days in Cape Town. This session was designed to help women leaders identify their leadership styles, be able to engage in public speaking to make their voices heard, understand the importance of self-awareness, leadership presence and how to lead in a crisis. The remaining three modules will be offered during 2024, culminating with the women leaders writing about their leadership journeys. The stories will be compiled in a book to be published by SCAT.

Twenty young people completed a 10-month accredited Level 1 Business Skills Management Learnership programme in Mogalakwena, Limpopo. These learners were exposed to a work experience process by being attached to SCAT-funded

LDAs in Mogalakwena and were awarded their certificates of competence by the Services SETA at a graduation function held in their honour.

Paralegal advice services

SCAT funding support enabled 27 SCAT-funded community advice offices to handle 16,999 cases brought to their offices by members of their communities in 2023. The majority of the cases (22%) were related to social grants, namely child support, foster care, old age pensions, and social relief of distress. We attribute this to ongoing delays in the payment of social grants by the Department of Social Development and changes in the payment system and locations. Of the other cases, 19% were labour-related, addressing community members' problems with unemployment insurance, unfair labour practices, and disputes related to the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA). Civil cases such as personal disputes between individuals and land disputes made up 17%. The LDAs reported that they were able to resolve 70% of the cases. The rest were either still pending at the end of the year, or had been referred to relevant authorities.

LDA support and monitoring

In addition to support provided telephonically, via email, WhatsApp, and virtual platforms, which ensure that SCAT Programme Officers stay abreast of developments in their LDAs, SCAT requires Programme Officers to conduct 2 - 3 support and monitoring visits to each LDA annually. The number of days and visits per LDA is determined by the LDA's status and the nature of intervention and support required. Emerging and developing LDAs receive more visits than established LDAs.

We also conducted on-site financial management and governance capacity building for some of the emerging and developing LDAs, especially in Limpopo and the Free State. The visits are an opportunity for the team to engage with the LDA staff and management, and key stakeholders in the community and to visit projects being implemented by the LDAs.

We continued working with LDA staff to improve their data collection and case management in order to improve the efficiency of their reporting to SCAT. The Programme Team engaged a sample of LDAs to review and improve the current LDA reporting template to make it easier to complete and beneficial to both the LDAs and SCAT. This remains a work in progress.

SCAT Programme Officers also conducted annual assessments of the LDAs' performance for continued grant funding approval by the SCAT Board of Trustees. Sixty-one LDAs were approved for grant funding support in 2024.

Programme staffing in 2023

The Programme Team is made up of 10 staff members, comprising two Senior Programme Officers, a Project Coordinator, four Programme Officers, two Programme Assistants, and an Intern. Together, they support, monitor, and provide capacity building to SCAT-funded partner organisations.

CONTINUITY AND RENEWAL: A YEAR OF LEARNING, PARTNERING AND STRATEGISING

Nokukhanya Mchunu, Programme Manager: Research, Advocacy and Learning

Nokukhanya worked as a Programme Officer for four years before her promotion to Programme Manager responsible for Research, Learning and Advocacy. Over the past year, Nokukhanya coordinated the strategic planning process in SCAT and focused on learning in the organisation. This was a much-needed element due to growth in the team and the need to ensure that all team members have the skills required for implementing the SCAT model. This report reflects on the transition from the role of PO to manager.

The shift in my job entailed juggling aspects of both portfolios to ensure smooth continuity for SCAT's partners while the handover process was completed. For example, while taking on the new tasks that came with the new role, I retained responsibility for implementing a GBV workshop, which is reported on here.

Strategising and Learning

2023 was another busy and fruitful year for SCAT, as we focused on crafting our next five-year strategy, which was informed by an evaluation concluded late in 2022. The evaluation findings were essential in ensuring that we crafted a grounded, impactful strategy reflecting SCAT's core principles.

Leading the team in developing and finalising the strategy together with external monitoring and evaluation experts proved to be a challenging yet manageable task. It was imperative to have the SCAT staff fully immersed in developing the strategy and to ensure that they completely understood any new elements in it. We had to work around tight deadlines while respecting their commitment to meeting their work obligations.

Learning has always been a key focus area for SCAT and during the year, the staff took three days out for a retreat where we learned about and came to a better understanding of the global context in which we operate as an intermediary grant funding organisation focused on marginalised rural communities. The learning areas included exploring what a feminist organisation is and what this would mean for SCAT, and deepening our understanding of the asset-based community development approach, all while getting to know each other more and connecting as colleagues.

GBV Workshop

We had the pleasure of closing off the year with a three-day GBV workshop on the same theme as the UN Women for the 2023 16 Days of Activism campaign - **"UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls".** The workshop

was for our local partners who have a strong focus on GBV-related work in their communities. Learning and partnership were the central threads: the workshop itself was co-created and facilitated in partnership with other stakeholders in the GBV sector. It ended with an event held in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland. Guest speakers from the Ford Foundation and Ubuntu Rural Women and Youth Movement, and the Irish Ambassador to South Africa gave impactful and thought-provoking speeches.

All in all, 2023 was a year filled with learning and building and maintaining partnerships, all accomplished while crafting a strategy that enables a new and improved way of being for the organisation. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission, principles and strategic priorities. Building upon the foundation we laid during 2023, we are excited to pursue new opportunities, address emerging challenges, and continue positively impacting our stakeholders and local partners.

Sisterhood Performance at 16 Days of Activism Against GBV event

LDAS ENGAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SERVICES

Vuyo Msizi, Senior Programme Officer

Vuyo Msizi mentors and supports Local Development Agencies in the Eastern Cape. He facilitates governance, programme management and change making processes in the provinces where SCAT operates. He also mentors and supports SCAT Programme Officers working on our various projects. Vuyo reflects on the relationship between paralegal casework and LDAs advocating for socio-economic rights in communities.

SCAT funds LDAs' work to secure access to justice and services for their clients and communities. Access to justice is a basic legal principle. It defines how citizens should have equal access to justice and services. South Africa is a developmental state and a constitutional democracy; our constitution is the supreme law. The Bill of Rights in the Constitution sets out everyone's rights and responsibilities, including those of institutions and departments of the state, which have planning and development mechanisms to ensure service delivery.

Local government has adopted Integrated Development Planning (IDP) to engage citizens and ensure that their aspirations are incorporated in the state's planning processes. Local government is the closest sphere of the state to the citizenry and can thus effect change that has measurable impacts on people's lives. By the same token, instability and uncertainty in local government has a direct effect on service delivery.

The Constitution also provides citizens with instruments for resolving conflict and disputes when rights are threatened or violated. These include the courts and "Chapter Nine Institutions" that support our constitutional democracy - the Public Protector, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, the Commission for Gender Equality, the Auditor-General, and the Independent Electoral Commission.

South Africa is an unequal society, where some citizens are illiterate and some have not completed primary or secondary education. This, coupled with the complexity of legislation, makes it difficult for ordinary citizens to exercise their rights and refer cases to the Chapter Nine Institutions. In the past few years, legal fees have sky rocketed, making it impossible for most citizens to access attorneys' services. Community paralegals are now the only viable alternative. As if this were not enough of a challenge, most government departments have migrated to online systems to which volunteers in the advice offices play a vital role in ensuring citizen access.

The SCAT-funded Interchurch Local Development Agency (ILDA) in Uitenhage, led by Noluthando Festile, has for many years bridged the affordability gap between the courts and Chapter Nine Institutions by educating people to be active citizens, teaching them how to hold government to account and participate meaningfully in their own development. They also assist citizens who have not registered their children's births to use the Department of Home Affairs system to access social grants in accordance with the Social Assistance Act.

In 2023 ILDA guided citizens in two Nelson Mandela Bay Wards to use the IDP to address the problem of a water canal that had been uncovered for thirty years, despite endless promises to fix it made at election times. They developed a petition and successfully invited the local Ward Councillor to join them in a study circle funded by Freedom House. They then organised a multi-stakeholder meeting that included officials of the Department of Water Affairs, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, Department of Health, the Ward Councillor and Bisho Public Protector to address the water canal problem and a backlog in housing provision and related alleged cronyism. They also engaged the Office of the Public Protector to support them in lobbying the Municipality to address the problem of an increase in traffic accidents by installing speed calming devices in streets. These initiatives taught the ILDA Advice Office and the community it serves that engaging local government using the IDP is a more effective strategy than attack or criticism because it enables them to achieve their goals faster.

In a similar vein, the Development Education Learning in Action (DELTA) LDA in Libode helped citizens whose applications for housing were bogged down in a morass of bureaucracy to use the IDP process to refer their case to the local Public Protector's Office. SCAT programme officers assisted DELTA with retrieving the necessary documents so that they could move the project forward.

Vuyo Msizi briefing a small group at the GBV Workshop, November 2023, Photo: Delecamedia.com

INTERCHURCH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ILDA)

ILDA is based in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in the Eastern Cape. They work in Uitenhage, Kariega and surrounding communities. The organisation has a long history and, like SCAT, celebrates its 40th birthday in 2024.

ILDA is a seasoned CBO that has managed its leadership succession well, navigating some challenges in the process. They are a strategic grantee partner for SCAT in an important location. They play a pivotal role in their community, responding to local people's concerns while executing their plans and delivering key services such as access to justice and social grants. Through the years, ILDA has secured resources from other donors and government departments to support their work.

ILDA has been consistently strong in partnering with stakeholders while delivering on their programmes. In 2023 they partnered with:

- the IEC to deliver voter education, focusing on getting young people to the polls in 2024;
- the Department of Justice, SAPS and Victim Empowerment Centres to support GBV survivors and to educate communities on GBV and gender equality;
- the Public Protector on issues of poor or absent service delivery and the rule of law; and
- the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to intervene in challenging land issues with the local tribal leaders.

In 2023, ILDA was a recipient of the Climate Champions Core Grant and an active participant in the RACR programme. They used the grant to support community vegetable gardens at the Amanzi Estate Farm and Moegesukkel Informal Settlement. In addition to permaculture training, the community gardens were supported with water tanks, rainwater harvesting systems, garden tools, seedlings, a shaded structure to house a nursery, and stipends for volunteer gardeners.

Despite water shortages and heavy rainfall, which destroyed crops and delayed planting, ILDA succeeded in making an impact by:

- providing additional resources to community gardens, which increased the supply of vegetables for community members and the feeding schemes they support;
- bolstering opportunities for local economic development - surplus vegetables are sold to generate income for the gardens and the people working in them;
- capacitating the communities that are home to these gardens with knowledge on how to establish climate adaptive household food gardens.

ILDA is an example of a well-governed, responsive Local Development Agency that SCAT is proud to partner with.

SCAT SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Colleen Alexander-Julies, Senior Programme Officer

Colleen Alexander-Julies has been working on a project that is a partnership between SCAT and DGMT, which is the beneficiary of the Lesedi Solar Park Trust in the districts of Kgatelopele and Tsantsabane in the Northern Cape since 2021. This partnership is built on work that SCAT has been doing in this area to develop the capacity of community-based organisations to receive and manage funds to develop their communities. The project also focuses on small-micro-medium enterprises (SMMEs), food gardens, GBV and youth. This report reflects the impact of this programme in these communities.

Access to resources and facilities remains a significant challenge for rural, community-based organisations, hindering their ability to diversify funding sources. The support comprises financing, mentorship and capacity-building, focused on organisational development, business growth for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), and enhancing food security through communal food gardens. The partnership with DGMT and Lesedi Solar Park Trust is enhanced by additional resources that SCAT brings from other funders.

Local Development Agencies (LDAs)

We began 2023 supporting four LDAs and, by the end of the year, had expanded to six. The capacity-building support emphasised women's leadership development. Women leaders from four organisations participated in the SCAT Women in Leadership programme, showcasing a commitment to fostering gender equality and empowerment.

Capacity Building

The LDAs underwent training on Integrated Development Planning (IDP) to enhance their understanding of municipal systems and budgeting processes. Participants learned that IDP is a lawful community development mechanism that enables civil society organisations to advocate for people's development needs and access community development opportunities and state resources for the benefit of poorer communities.

Orientation sessions were conducted for two newly funded CBOs (Agape Community Upliftment Projects and Therapist on Wheels) to align them with SCAT's expectations and reporting requirements. Participation in other SCAT training programmes, such as the Rural Action for Climate Resilience Learning Festival, further enriched the organisations' knowledge and skills.

Sixteen farmers (12 women and 4 men) from Kgatelopele Social Development Forum (KSDF) in Danielskuil and Bomaja Ka Thata, an agricultural cooperative in

Groenwater, took part in a three-day permaculture training programme. Youth made up 37% of the group. The training included designing the Groenwater garden, supporting plant nutrition through trench beds, compost making, mulching, soil preparation with organic matter, tree planting for climate change, water management, rainwater harvesting, basic nursery practices, seed saving, pest and disease control, and interplanting techniques.

SMME Support

SCAT offered on-site mentoring and assistance to four Northern Cape SMMEs to strengthen their operational capacities: Fortkopi Printing and Arrie Jantjies General Workers (AJEMS) in Danielskuil, and Olesedi Jwa Botshelo and Lessa Solutions in Postmasburg. We facilitated collaborative efforts to build partnerships between the SMMEs and other funded projects, showcasing our programme's commitment to fostering synergies and growth opportunities for our LDAs.

All four SMMEs (and another SMME in Danielskuil) are part of a year-long New Venture Creation Programme, which includes nine in-person sessions during 2023 – 2024, four of which had happened by the end of 2023. Fortkopi and AJEMS also received much-needed equipment.

Gender-Based Violence Initiatives

A comprehensive situational analysis of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was conducted in Postmasburg and Danielskuil, shedding light on the prevalent challenges and the need for robust community-based responses. All the CBOs in the Programme joined SCAT at the community feedback sessions held at the Tsantsabane local municipality in Postmasburg and the Kgatelopele local municipality in Danielskuil. The CBOs' participation in the community feedback sessions was auspicious because they were closely involved in the research process. It underscored a collective commitment to addressing societal problems and supporting vulnerable communities.

Food Security and Climate Change Resilience

The permaculture training and assessments have enabled the Northern Cape CBOs to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to develop climate-resilient strategies for their agricultural projects, thus promoting food security. This initiative exemplifies SCAT's proactive approach to environmental sustainability.

A highlight of the year was Dutch Ambassador Han Peters' visit to Postmasburg and Danielskuil, where he interacted with the CBOs, SMMEs, and YouthBanks that SCAT supports. The visit was a platform to showcase the impact of SCAT's interventions and the partner organisations' achievements in contributing to local development.

The DGMT/Lesedi Solar Park Trust programme report for 2023 reflects a year of impactful interventions, capacity building, and collaborative efforts aimed at fostering sustainable development in rural communities. The commitment to empowering women leaders, supporting SMMEs, addressing gender-based violence, and promoting climate resilience underscores SCAT's dedication to creating positive change and building resilient communities.

TSANTSABANE CENTRE OF HOPE, POSTMASBURG

A headline in a Postmasburg newspaper, "Baby's Body Found On Rubbish Dump", was the catalyst for the formation of the Tsantsabane Centre of Hope (TCOH). When founder, Marilyn Hael, read this, a voice inside her reminded her of what she describes as her life's purpose - to create a place of safety and hope for vulnerable children.

Before 2020, TCOH was a small initiative operating in the backyard of Marilyn's house. COVID proved to be a blessing in disguise, as other organisations started reaching out to TCOH, placing children in their care and providing food parcels, clothes and toys. TCOH's relationship with SCAT began in 2021, when the DG Murray Trust asked SCAT to include TCOH in a screening visit to ascertain whether they could be funded.

TCOH provides a safe haven for vulnerable children who are embroiled in legal processes. They advocate for the rights of children in their community and strive to obtain a remedy when a child has been violated or denied services to which they are entitled. In the past three years, they have expanded their programme to achieve additional outcomes for children:

- Provide protection and care, and fulfil the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and social needs of every child in their care.
- Promote children's psychological safety, reduction of stress and worry, and increased problem-solving skills.
- Build emotional literacy, regulation and expression. For example: understanding one's own feelings, accurately reading emotional states in others, and managing strong emotions such as fear.
- Teach and promote pro-social behaviour.
- Provide mental relief from stressful and complex life situations.
- Address learning disabilities.
- Improve food security.

The TCOH after-school programme runs from Mondays to Thursdays, from 14h00 to 16h30 and caters for learners in Grades 4 to 8. It has grown in terms of the number of children reached (by 52%, from 54 in 2023 to 82 in 2024) and the quality of activities. The programme addresses food insecurity by providing a meal for the children and teaches life skills, English and Afrikaans reading skills, and Mathematics. Parents have reported improvements in their children's academic performance as a result of their improved reading skills, as well increased confidence and ability to focus on tasks.

The other programme TCOH instituted in 2023 is "My Buddy's Keeper", a peer-support initiative to address behavioural issues, dropout and absenteeism among learners in the local schools. Forty-eight learners have been trained as peer supporters and assigned to other learners in their classes as their "Buddy's Keeper". The programme is designed to enhance the peer supporters' leadership skills. Their presence in classrooms is intended to assist the teachers, who are routinely overburdened and do not always have the ability or time to address learners' psycho-social problems.

In addition to being a place of safety for children who are involved in court proceedings, TCOH promotes community awareness and runs workshops to advocate for children's rights. They do GBV awareness work because it affects children's safety, and have started a food gardening programme to assist families to grow healthy food for their children.

All in all, TCOH provides a vitally important service to the children of Postmasburg.

Marilyn Hael TCOH Founder, second row on the right, with WiL participants

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

Claire Tapscott

Claire is the SCAT Climate Change Programme Coordinator and has coordinated the Rural Action for Climate Resilience project funded by the European Union. This project is a partnership between SCAT (lead partner), Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute (SAFCEI), and Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF). Claire reflects on the impact of this programme on building resilience to climate change in rural areas.

Climate change is one of the foremost challenges we face, presenting a complex and immediate crisis that affects every corner of the globe. In rural areas, where livelihoods are often intricately tied to agriculture and natural resources, the impacts of climate change are particularly pronounced. Reduced crop yields, livestock losses, and diminished access to water exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and further threaten rural communities' well-being and economic stability. South Africa's National Adaptation Plan highlights a likely rising trend in extreme weather events, including heat waves, prolonged dry spells, and increased rainfall intensity. These shifts have severe repercussions for water security, especially in rural communities, where more frequent droughts and water shortages exacerbate existing water scarcity. Additional funding from Woolworths for food gardens in the Northern and Eastern Cape strengthened their capacity to deal with climate change.

Fostering climate resilience skills in South African rural communities to safeguard their survival and well-being is thus crucial. Skills in sustainable agriculture practices, water conservation, community networking, and efficient resource management are integral to resilience building. These skills enable people to adapt to shifting weather patterns, mitigate the effects of climate change, reduce vulnerability and bolster their ability to navigate unexpected challenges.

Throughout 2023, intensified efforts to build the capacity of participating CBOs and faith leaders, empowering them to support their communities in climate change adaption. In-person capacity-building Regional Workshops in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, and the second Learning Festival in Cape Town, all served as platforms for education and skills development.

The Regional Workshops included a refresher on the science of climate change, case studies discussing experiences within the RACR project, and community-level vulnerability mapping. Participants explored the intersectionality of climate change, including the gendered impacts and responses.

The Learning Festival addressed climate change activism and advocacy, including discussions on gender and human rights approaches, campaigns for a Green New Eskom, and rural adaptation strategies. Insights were shared by various organisations, including the Green Anglicans, SAFCEI, and the Centre for Environmental Rights. Parallel sessions offered topics on practical adaptation

strategies, such as traditional seed saving and DIY "wonderbox cooker" construction. The RACR Team attended COP28 in Dubai, where we presented a short publication based on insights gathered during the Learning Festival and subsequent online meetings. The publication showcases rural experiences and vulnerabilities to climate change, with suggestions from grassroots communities on responding to climate impacts.

These capacity-building workshops empowered the CBOs to confront climate change challenges head-on by using the RACR Climate Champions Micro Grants to translate knowledge into actionable initiatives. In 2023, ten successful applicants each received R8,000 to implement projects that showcased solid steps towards enhancing community resilience. Siyakhana GBV Centre, a faith-led CBO, organised a seed-saving workshop targeting small-scale farmers to diversify produce and promote cost-effective farming practices. Other grants were applied to disseminating climate change information and adaptation strategies to schools, traditional leaders, faith groups, and community members. These projects involved collaboration with stakeholders like municipalities, the Department of Agriculture, and community development workers.

The eight CBOs that received Climate Champions Core Grants continued implementing activities with the R200,000 they had each received in late 2022. This financial support facilitated the implementation of transformative initiatives, yielding progress in building climate resilience within their communities. For instance, the Merweville Advice and Development Office spearheaded the re-establishment of a community garden by providing essential resources such as solar panels to power the borehole pump, gardening tools, seedlings, trees, and a new fence. The gardeners received training on ferrocement tank construction and built three tanks in the garden.

Seven of the Core Grantees, including the Merweville group, were trained in permaculture. The permaculture training developed valuable skills in sustainable gardening: efficient water management, soil conservation, and organic pest control to produce healthier crops with fewer resources. By implementing principles such as companion planting and polyculture, the gardeners created resilient ecosystems that are less susceptible to pests and diseases. The training fostered community collaboration, strengthening social ties and collective action. Evidence of the beneficial impact of the permaculture training emerged in two instances. The impressive results achieved in the gardens prompted local traditional leaders to allocate additional land to two projects supported by the Port St Johns Legal Advice Centre. Gardeners also reported experiencing improved health since cultivating and consuming homegrown organic vegetables and indigenous herbs, with alleviation of prior illnesses, such as diabetes. This highlights the holistic impact of sustainable gardening on community well-being.

The achievements of 2023 encourage us to renew our dedication to fostering climate resilience and empowering rural communities to flourish amidst environmental challenges. The tangible evidence of climate resilience in these communities is testimony to the unwavering commitment of our rural partners, whose steadfast determination and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in driving positive change.

1 *RACR participants at the Anti-Nuclear Vigil at Parliament*

2 *Jan Bostander, RACR Learning Festival*

3 *Nomboniso Gaya, RACR Learning Festival*

4 *Desiree Brand, RACR Learning Festival*

5 *Thembakazi Mthembu, RACR Learning Festival*

6 *7 Anti-Nuclear Vigil at Parliament*

8 *Permaculture Training with Ubuntu RWYM and SCAT*

MERWEVILLE ADVICE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Merweville Advice & Development Office (MADO), which celebrated its 10th anniversary in July 2023, supports the community of Merweville, a small town in the Beaufort West Municipality in the arid Karoo. The only access to Merweville is via a 157 km gravel road from Beaufort West, the biggest town in the Great Karoo, located on the N1 highway.

Jan Bostander, MADO's founder, is still active in the organisation as a committee member. He is a trained paralegal and continues to support paralegal cases as well as overseeing the food garden project. One of Jan's biggest challenges is finding and retaining young people as staff members. The school dropout rate in the community is high and the town suffers from all the usual social ills - drug/alcohol abuse and the effects of unemployment and poverty.

MADO offers social grants assistance and access to justice services, mainly with Unemployment Insurance Fund cases and unfair labour practices. They help their community with funeral claims and assist young people who are applying for jobs to draft their CVs. They have a close relationship with the local women's group, which meets at MADO's offices every week. This group helps with MADO's GBV awareness work and offers support to vulnerable people in the community. Last year MADO also formed a youth structure to create a platform for young people to voice their concerns, address issues of drug and alcohol abuse among youth, and to provide the young people with opportunities to improve their circumstances.

As a RACR Climate Champions Core Grantee, MADO has a significant Climate Change focus. They used the grant to revive a 7.5 ha community food garden. With the organisation's help, the garden steering committee secured a 9-year lease for the garden's site, formed a cooperative, and purchased a solar panel to power a pump for the borehole that supplies water to the garden. This initiative aims to address food security and the significant levels of youth unemployment in Merweville.

During 2023, the gardeners received comprehensive permaculture training, which equipped them with valuable knowledge and skills in sustainable agricultural practices. They gained insights into designing resilient and self-sustaining ecosystems, optimising resource utilisation, and minimising environmental impact, all of which they will use to sustain the garden. They were also trained in the construction of ferrocement tanks, a specialised skill with diverse applications in water conservation and management. As a result of learning how to design, build and maintain these tanks effectively, the gardeners successfully constructed three ferrocement tanks in the food garden. A video of the building of the first tank is on SCAT's YouTube channel - @scatrural.

Magrieta van Rooyen, Ubuntu Rural Womxn & Youth Movement

SUPPORTING CBOS TO RESPOND TO GBV AND FEMICIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES: EASTERN CAPE AND FREE STATE PROVINCES

Katleho Ramafalo, Programme Officer

Katleho Ramafalo is a Programme Officer who implemented SCAT's programme funded by the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund. She also coordinated the inception phase of the Women in Leadership Programme. Her responsibilities in the GBVF programme have been identifying and mentoring nine community-based CBOs working on GBVF located in hotspots in the Free State and Eastern Cape.

The Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund1 was inaugurated by President Cyril Ramaphosa in February 2021 to address the pervasive issue of GBVF in South Africa. The Fund is dedicated to fostering change through research, raising awareness, and providing practical support to organisations committed to combating this crisis. Its mission is to achieve a South Africa free from GBVF, ensuring safety and justice for women, children, and LGBTQIA+ individuals within our lifetime through capacity-building and grant-making models implemented by intermediaries such as SCAT.

SCAT's project targets nine community-based organisations in GBVF hotspots in the Free State and Eastern Cape. These hotspots were indicated by South Africa's Minster of Police, Bheki Cele. The nine community-based organizations (CBOs) have received R183,000 in seed grants and attended five capacity-building workshops to date. The following action were undertaken by the nine CBOs with SCAT's support over the last two years:

1. **Alwande Ulwazi:**
- Partnered with the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Department of Social Development (DSD), White Door Centres (localised victim reception centres located as close to the community as possible that function as short-term safe spaces for victims who need to wait for professional services, including the police), churches, and traditional leaders.
- Held community education workshops on GBVF, violence against women (VAW), and violence against children (VAC).

2. **Bizana Paralegal Advice Centre:**
- Worked with schools, SAPS, and Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) centres to create safe spaces for victims and conducted educational workshops.
- Noted an increase in reported cases and follow-up actions by SAPS.

3. **Development Education and Leadership Team in Action (DELTA):**
- Engaged communities in dialogues to understand cultural issues related to GBVF.
- Noted active participation from men and identified women as key cultural custodians.

4. **Lusikisiki Community Advice Centre:**
- Conducted awareness campaigns, workshops on human rights, and information-sharing sessions.
- Provided case work, mediation, and follow-ups on reported cases.
- Faced challenges such as lack of transport and stakeholder follow-ups.

5. **MT Foundation:**
- Used a GBV resource guide to enhance understanding of GBV, domestic violence, and related emergency contacts.
- Assessed victim-friendly rooms in SAPS and donated toys.

6. **Reya Phela Safe House:**
- Provided shelter and conducted various activities such as beadwork and educational sessions on the Domestic Violence Act.
- Faced challenges such as delayed payments and lack of resources.

7. **Rising Dawn Reflection:**
- Organised awareness campaigns and workshops during the 16 Days of Activism against GBVF campaign.
- Highlighted issues like forced marriages and provided therapeutic services to victims.

8. **Siyanqoba HIV/AIDS Support Group:**
- Adopted the 'Don't Look Away: Act Against Abuse' campaign, organising community dialogues and educational events.
- Faced challenges with audience engagement but managed to implement after-school feeding schemes for vulnerable children.

9. **Tyinira Advice Office:**
- Organised awareness sessions on GBVF focusing on youth education for self-protection and reporting incidents.

Programme Highlights

Governance Training sessions were conducted for representatives from the nine CBOs. The sessions aimed to enhance the organisations' governance structures, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective decision-making processes.

Financial Management Training sessions were provided to build the CBOs' financial capacity, covering topics such as budgeting, financial reporting, and grant management.

Fundraising Support: Although not utilised fully, the project allocated resources for fundraising training sessions which were intended to equip CBOs with the skills necessary to secure additional funding for their GBVF initiatives.

General GBVF Support: The project provided ongoing support and guidance to the selected CBOs in their efforts to address GBVF within their communities. This support included technical assistance, networking opportunities, and access to resources and best practices.

Community Impact: Through the GBVF Response Fund Project, significant progress was made in empowering and elevating community-based organisations in their crucial role in combatting GBVF. The impact of these efforts is reflected in the increased capacity, effectiveness, and reach of the supported organisations, thereby contributing to a safer and more resilient society.

The GBVF Response Fund Project is a beacon of hope in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide in the Free State and Eastern Cape regions. The dedication and commitment of all stakeholders involved, coupled with the Fund's generous support, have been instrumental in driving positive change and fostering a future free from violence and discrimination.

GBV Workshop, November 2023

CBO CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROJECT: LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Kholofelo Kate Mabye, Programme Officer

Kate Mabye has been working in Limpopo on a CBO capacity development programme. The programme, funded by Anglo-American Foundation Trust through Tshikululu Social Investments, aims to equip CBOs with governance, financial management, fundraising and programme implementation skills. SCAT is implementing this project in partnership with Axum. In addition, Kate coordinated a Business Skills Development programme for twenty young people in Mogalakwena, which formed part of a Sustainable Livelihoods project funded by Tshikululu Trust. Kate shares the programme's impact on CBOs and youth in Limpopo.

Despite initial setbacks due to the COVID pandemic and the passing of John Makofane, our team's efforts contributed to significant positive impacts in two mining communities - Mokopane and Polokwane. In Limpopo mines drive economic activities. Despite this, there are multiple socio-economic challenges such as unemployment, GBV, insufficient education and training opportunities and facilities, unfair distribution of economic resources, and inadequate service delivery.

As a result of these challenges, there has been a growth in the establishment of civil society organisations, mostly CBOs. With limited support available to these organisations, they face many challenges that can be demoralising. These include:

- lack of relevant organisational policies;
- limited understanding of organisational structure and management;
- non-compliance with the requirements of entities that regulate the South African non-profit sector;
- unclear strategy and poor planning; and
- uncertain sustainability.

As a result, these organisations struggle to access funding from other stakeholders, leading to financial instability and hindering their ability to effectively serve their communities. This is where SCAT's core focus bridges gaps towards developing viable organisations.

Capacity-Building Project: Mogalakwena

In 2023, the capacity-building project in Mogalakwena empowered 11 CBO partners with essential skills and resources to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability. SCAT provided the following:

- comprehensive training sessions covering Governance, Financial Management, IT operations, and Programme Management;
- essential IT equipment and conducted IT training sessions for all 11 CBOs;
- on-site governance training to four CBOs, ensuring thorough committee member training;
- facilitated an information-sharing session among the 11 organisations, fostering collaboration and networking opportunities; and
- on-site mentoring and support to each CBO, resulting in noticeable improvements in project implementation for eight of the organisations.

As a result, a minimum of 15,000 people per quarter received vital services such as access to justice, food security, youth empowerment, gender-based violence support, and specialised workshops.

The organisations are now able to plan and implement programmes. Their financial management and governance structures have improved and they can hold themselves accountable and report to their communities through AGMs and other channels. These improvements make them more attractive to potential funders for sustaining their operations. In 2023, Refilwe Community Centre secured funding and capacity building from Beyond Zero. Aluta Park Youth Centre formed a partnership with Hands Off for their community food garden project, which made it possible to pay stipends to the garden staff and increase the number of beneficiaries.

Sustainable Livelihoods Project: Mogalakwena and Polokwane

In 2023 SCAT supported sustainable livelihoods projects aimed at fostering local economic empowerment and community resilience in Mogalakwena and Polokwane. Twenty young people were recruited for a learnership project and three community food gardens were established. Highlights include:

- sustainably addressing water scarcity through borehole installation;
- permaculture training to ensure sustainable garden management and maximise produce yield;
- providing IT equipment, job exposure opportunities, and comprehensive work readiness workshops for programme participants; and
- celebrating the graduation of 20 youth who completed an NQF Level 1 Business Skills learnership programme offered by Creatividad. They received credits in communication, mathematics, business management, and other subjects, as well as practical experience in office administration, project management, and paralegal services during a 10-month job exposure opportunity at CBOs. Overall, the course equipped them with essential business skills, enabling them to qualify for business funding without needing to attend additional training.

Aluta Park Youth Centre: Empowering Communities

Aluta Park Youth Centre in Mokopane emerged as a beacon of positive change, addressing critical issues such as high school dropout rates, unemployment, and gender-based violence. With sole funding from SCAT complemented by local community fundraising, the centre has become a catalyst for youth empowerment and community development. They successfully trained 20 young people in basic computer skills and increasing their employment prospects by partnering with a local driving school for free driving lessons. They also supported the establishment of household food gardens, benefitting vulnerable households in the community.

Overall, the CBOs made substantial strides in fostering community development and sustainable livelihoods across the Limpopo province in 2023. Through these strategic interventions, capacity-building initiatives, and collaborative partnerships, we have positively impacted thousands of lives and laid the groundwork for continued progress and prosperity in the years to come.

Mphalatsana Drop-In Centre Foodgarden

LEARNING-IN-ACTION: THE VALUE OF FIELD VISITS FOR SCAT AND OUR PARTNERS

Indiphile Matini, Programme Assistant

Indiphile was promoted from an intern at SCAT in 2022 to Programme Assistant in 2023. As a PA, they supported the Rural Action for Climate Resilience project and other elements of the SCAT programme. They have applied the knowledge gained through their Social Work training to enhance their participation in all of SCAT's work areas. This report is a reflection on their experience of spending time in the field with SCAT LDAs.

In 2023 I went on a series of core grantee field visits as part of the Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) project. The projects visited were in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. Many of the projects showed positive development despite some challenges, however others faced challenges that made their implementation all the more difficult.

The first visit was to the Merweville Advice and Development Office (MADO), where John Nzira from Ukuvuna had conducted training on constructing ferrocement water tanks. Additional permaculture training and the installation of a solar-powered borehole enhanced the community's capacity for sustainable water management and equipped MADO to begin planting crops in their communal garden.

At the Interchurch Local Development Agency (ILDA) meeting I was struck by the discussions on their use of funding for permaculture training and improvements in their gardening and composting techniques. The Amanzi Farm project and the garden in the community of Moeggesukkel, both supported by ILDA, struggled with leadership transitions and low community engagement respectively. We proposed responses such as promoting backyard gardens, resolving security concerns, and fostering peer learning and economic activities such as food markets. SCAT provided additional support by allocating a second funding tranche to enable collaboration with governmental entities and participation in workshops providing practical training to ensure sustainable communities and environments.

The beekeeping projects in Herschel faced setbacks, including honey production slowdowns and inadequate flowering plants. To mitigate these challenges, we recommended establishing gardens and installing safety equipment. Community gardens in Thuso were dealing with overwatering and limited crop variety, which prompted us to make recommendations on improved water management and implementing knowledge gained from training.

Key themes highlighting rural communities' resilience emerged during the visits. Despite numerous setbacks, communities addressed water supply constraints, managed invasive species, and addressed the impacts of monoculture. This was evident in the projects in Port St Johns, Mount Frere, and Dordrecht. The recommendations we made highlighted infrastructure improvements, increased youth involvement, and exploring alternative income streams. Efforts to empower youth through entrepreneurship and permaculture training would seed more sustainable community development.

In summary, 2023's field visits showed the resilience and adaptability of rural communities in the face of climate change and its attendant challenges. Through collaboration, training, and income generation from gardening, communities demonstrated a commitment to sustainable development, laying the groundwork for long-term resilience and prosperity.

Nolubablo Mbangeli, Nobahle Diki, Nosipho Thwana, Siphokazi Mkolo, Berlin Advice Centre

A TRIBUTE TO

Mzolisi Nombewu

SCAT Bookkeeper from 1 June 2018 to 28 March 2024

9 May 1981 – 28 March 2024

Mzolisi Nombewu was born on Thursday 9 May 1981 in Katkop, a village close to Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape, to his mother, MamVulane, Nobesuthu Nombewu and his late father, a Dlamini, Thamsanqa Nombewu.

His father passed away when Mzo was still a young boy and Mzo became a crucial support to his mother and younger brothers from this time. He was a devoted father to his own children, Achuma and Ayola, and a beloved husband to his wife, Sange.

The SCAT team has lost a trusted and hard-working colleague. We lost a humble soul, a brother and confidant, and a beloved friend.

Mzolisi was one of a kind and will not be forgotten.

STAR THEATRE
AVALON
TAPEL
WORKSHOP
TRULY LOVE
WORKSPACES

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023

Hishaam Nordien, Finance Manager

Income and Expenditure

SCAT's financial results for 2023 reflect an increase of 33% in donor funding compared with 2022. Much of this was attributed to the expansion of programming in Limpopo, the Free State and Eastern Cape. Dividend income declined by 27% while interest earned doubled during this period.

The programme expansion resulted in the number of LDA and CBO grantees increase by 27% from 48 to 61. The number of grantees remained stable in the Eastern and Western Cape, but the Free State saw an increase of 150%, Limpopo 56% and the Northern Cape 40%. Core grants increased by 44% while DFT and FRIS declined by 6% and 24% respectively. Climate Change Grants increased by a whopping 493% from R311,900 to R1,850,600. Most of the LDAs used the RACR micro grants for climate change related training and so we saw the decline in DFT applications. More grantees also resulted in an increase of 24% in IT & Connectivity grants. SCAT responded to the floods in the Eastern Cape by making available funding of R354,000 to grantees who were hit by flood damage. We are grateful to Investec who assisted us with these grants.

SCAT trustees and management remain committed to modest overheads but due to the programme expansion, an increase of 22% in Governance, Communications and Finance expenditure was inevitable. The Programme costs increased by this same percentage. Capacity building increased by 15% as the Administration and Programmes team worked hard at finding affordable venues and transport for the activities described in this annual report.

Investments and Investment Income

SCAT has built a reserve fund to secure its long-term financial sustainability. The dividend and interest income allows SCAT to cover much of its own costs and to fund initiatives that fall outside of donor requirements, that meet our basic criteria and require funding. The intention of the reserve is to cushion SCAT during volatile funding conditions. SCAT's investment strategy governs the use of these funds and is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees. As a responsible investor, SCAT uses Active Shareholder as a proxy to vote at the general meetings of listed companies in which we hold shares. In this way, the organisation expresses its views on corporate governance, executive remuneration, impact on the environment, and other matters.

Financial Management

SCAT has an active Board of Trustees with a finance committee that oversees its financial management. Quarterly internal audits conducted by Ziyo Accountants help the finance team to assess and strengthen internal controls. The 2023 annual audit was once again conducted by Solace Consulting and the unqualified audit confirms SCAT's good recordkeeping and financial controls and systems.

SCAT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Year ending 31st December 2022

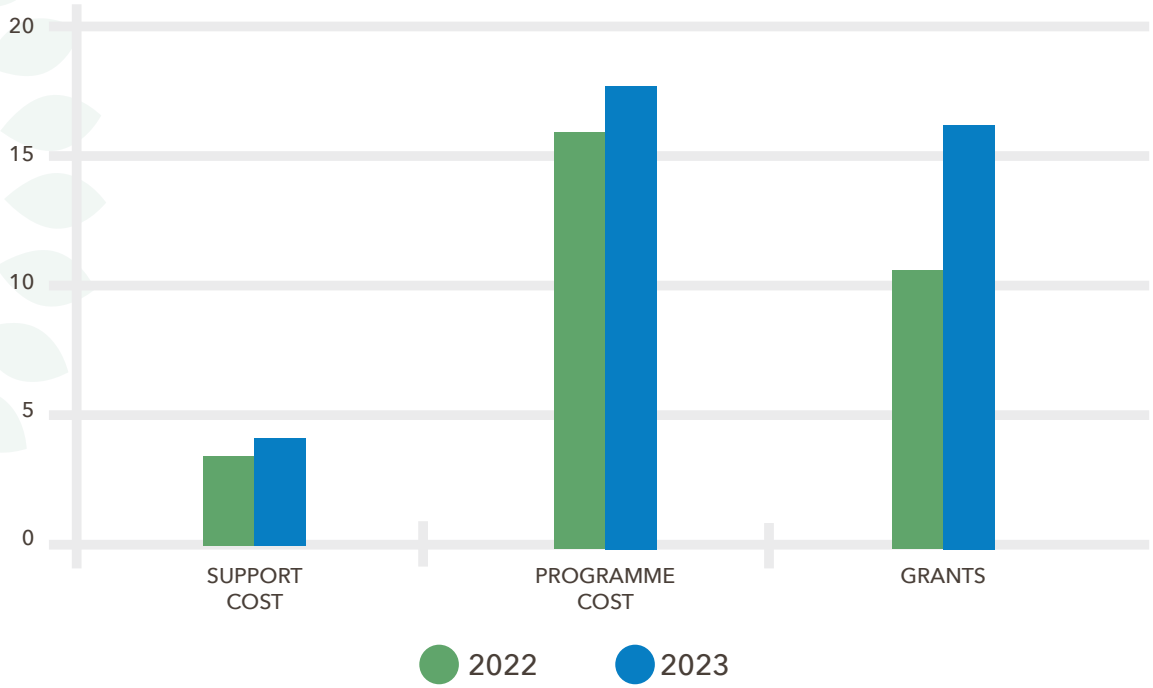
Detailed Income Statement

	2023	2022
Revenue	**43,795,103**	**38,152,840**
Funder income	38,869,808	29,144,445
Other Income		
Dividend revenue	2,159,568	2,966,014
Interest received	2,280,821	1,113,704
Rental received	283,661	22,200
Sundry income	201,244	4,906,478
Expenditure	**39,668,665**	**30,903,146**
Operating Expenses	**23,009,396**	**19,703,600**
Governance, communications and finance	3,863,459	3,156,354
Programme costs	2,997,498	2,454,947
Capacity building	16,148,439	14,092,299
Grants	**16,659,269**	**11,199,546**
Core grants	8,679,200	6,012,900
Development fund training	404,401	430,774
Fundraising incentive scheme	188,625	248,318
IT and LDA Connectivity	479,485	386,279
Climate Change Grants	1,850,600	311,900
YouthBank Grants	174,000	252,420
Food security projects	102,000	214,588
Flood Response	354,000	
Special project grants	4,426,958	3,342,367
Other Income		
Fair Value movements - Investments	2,137,042	14,463,927
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	**6,263,480**	**21,713,621**

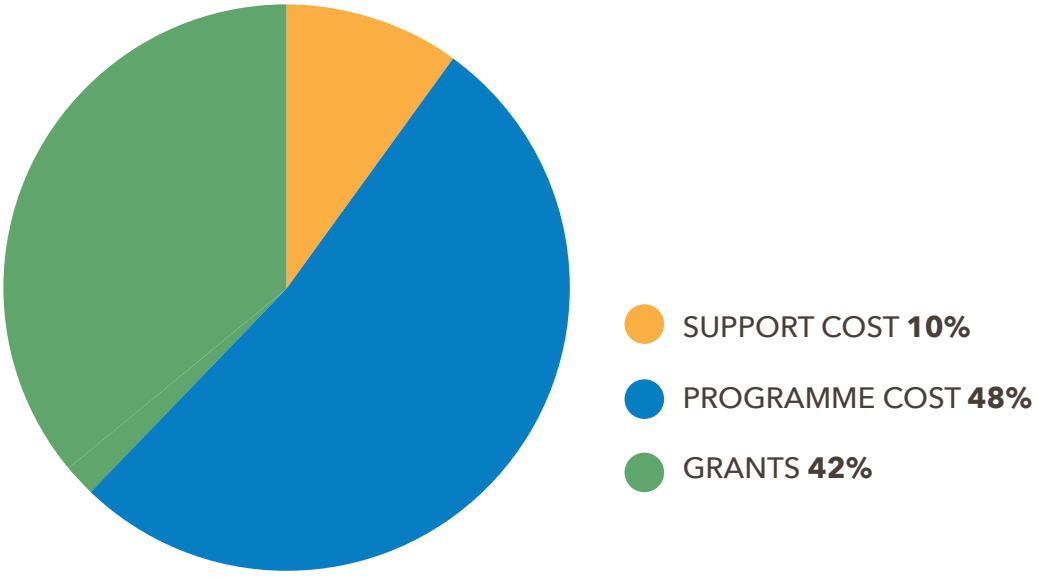
Statement of Financial Position

	2023	2022
Assets		
Non-Current Assets	**83,289,819**	**69,450,819**
Property, plant & equipment	5,754,322	5,373,171
Other financial assets	77,535,497	64,077,648
Current Assets	**33,989,994**	**35,092,385**
Trade & other receivables	659,086	289,483
Cash and cash equivalents	33,330,908	34,802,902
Total Assets	**117,279,813**	**104,543,204**
Funds and Liabilities		
Funds	**89,521,724**	**83,258,323**
Share revaluation reserve	32,778,665	28,652,306
Sustainability Fund	56,743,059	54,606,017
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	**27,758,089**	**21,284,881**
Provisions	716,872	635,400
Trade & other payables	1,710,677	1,609,253
Income received in advance	25,330,540	19,040,228
Total Funds & Liabilities	**117,279,813**	**104,543,204**

SCAT EXPENDITURE 2022/2023



OPERATING EXPENSES 2023



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Trustee, Programmes and Finance Committee

Valerie Jonathan
Trustee, Finance Committee

SCAT TEAM

Dr Joanne Harding
Executive Director

Hishaam Nordien
Finance Manager

Seth Tladi
Programmes Director

Abigail Steedsman
Administrator

Vuyo Msizi
Senior Programme Officer

Colleen Alexander Julies
Senior Programme Officer

Claire Tapscott
Climate Change Programme Coordinator

Nosimilo Filita
Finance Administrator

Mzolisi Nombewu
Bookkeeper
1 June 2018 - 28 March 2024

Nokukhanya Mchunu
Programme Manager: Research, Advocacy and Learning

Kathleho Ramafalo
Programme Officer

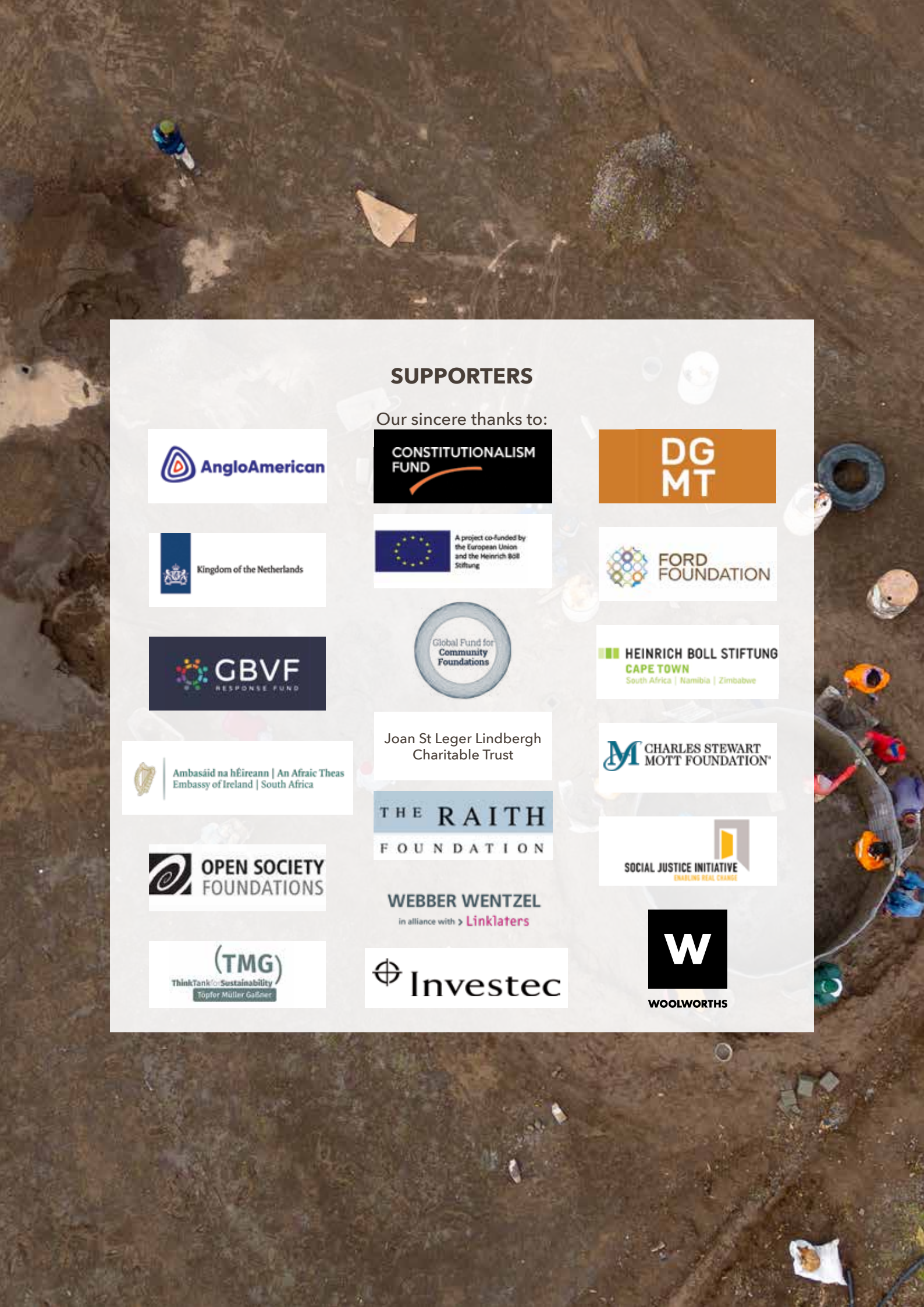
Kholofelo Kate Mabye
Programme Officer

Indiphile Matini
Assistant Programme Officer

Nosibabalwe Socikwa
Programme Officer

Thembi Tshongoyi
Intern, Programmes Team

Brigett Siphosethu Matomela
Assistant Programme Officer



SUPPORTERS

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