

**MOLO SONCOLOLO**

# Annual Report



2018

# Introduction

Molo Songololo is not immune to the socio, economic and political developments in South Africa. Every day the organisation must navigate these factors as it strives to promote the rights and protection of child and provide direct support services to child victims of sexual violence and those at risk and their families.

During this 2017 we experienced an increase of child killings in the Western Cape. Almost every week a child was killed due to gang violence and fighting amongst groups of teen boys and men. This remains a great concern for the organisation.

The work we do with children, their parents and community members in the targeted areas of Atlantis, Beaufort West and Delft indicate that social support systems are fragmented and lacking for many. Poor children and parents are unable to rely on families and neighbours for support and struggle to access services provided by government or civil society organisation.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2017 we experience a spike in child killings, gang shootings, taxi strikes and social conflict that disrupted the lives of children and their families in the Western Cape. Molo Songololo was call on by several schools in Atlantis and Delft to provide trauma support work for their learners.

Our Atlantis office got caught in the cross fire of gang fights and putting our staff and volunteers, and the children and parents who visit our office at risk. Likewise, in Delft staff feel unsafe when doing home-visit and school-visit. Several schools have approached Molo Songololo concerning violence and gang activity at their schools.

Despite these challenges staff managed to complete a volume of work impacting directly on children, parents and their communities. We have also been able to engage government and civil society role-players in various forums on child rights issues at national, provincial and local government level.

Involving children to participate in the work of Molo Songololo and promoting children's participation remains a strategic priority of the organisation. We managed to empower children and facilitate their participation in several provincial and national public decision-making processes on child rights issues.

This was made possible by a wonderful dedicated staff, partners and supporters. Without the financial contributions from our funders and public, the organisation would not have been able to achieve what we did.

# The Board, Staff, Interns and Volunteers

## The Board

We did not manage to have all our Board meeting during the past year due to poor attendance from Board members and not responding to communication. Despite this those who were active like the Chairperson, the deputy chair and Mr Rose provided valuable support. Our Board members are;

- Matilda Gene Vantura - Chairperson
- Mongezi Nyathela – Deputy-Chairperson
- Zeenith Ebrahim - Treasurer
- Madoda Mabuto - Secretary
- Vernon Rose - Director
- Asanda Mahlukani - Director
- Patric Solomons – Managing Director



## The staff

All the staff are vetted for clearance by the Child Protection Register and the South African Police Services. They remain focused and committed to provide the best possible service to children. They are;

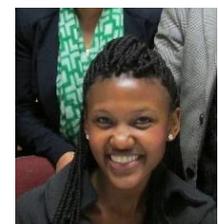
### Our staff for 2017-2018

- Director – Patric Solomons
- Office Manager – Melda Davids
- Finance Manager – Nadeema Taliep
- Communications & IT Support – Nikelo Makae
- VEP Manager / Social Worker - Chantal Chandler
- Social Worker – Kuda Zimudzi
- Auxiliary Social Worker – Lebogang Winnie
- Auxiliary Social Worker – Nicolene Marias
- Auxiliary Social Worker – Lorna Gertse
- Child Empowerment Manager – Ronnie Ngalo
- Office Maintenance – Millicent Siswana



## Interns and volunteers

- 32 Young people supported our programmes also volunteers



# Child Protection and Victim Empowerment

Molo Songololo provided direct social support and empowerment services to child victims of sexual violence, those at risk and their families. The organisation also engaged in public education to prevent child sexual exploitation. The trauma and violations children experienced included;

- Sexual assault, rape and statutory rape
- Sexual exploitation – sex in exchange for something
- Abduction – children going missing
- Trafficking in children for sexual purposes

The programme also provides social support and empowerment services to children who are at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation. These include children who were sexually active and who are in vulnerable situations and have behavioural problems.

This programme is implemented in Atlantis, Delft and Beaufort West and their surrounding areas. During this reporting year we managed to achieve the following;

- 5299 children took part in educational sessions to prevent child sexual exploitation
- 664 parents took part in educational sessions to prevent child sexual exploitation
- 192 child victims and those at risk provided with support and empowerment services
- 97 parents provided with support and empowerment services
- 115 children took part in therapeutic session
- 99 parents took part in therapeutic session

Additional work achieved during this reporting year included the following

- 5157 children took part in educational sessions to prevent trafficking in children
- 809 parents took part in educational session to prevent trafficking in children
- 307 children took part in life-skills empowerment sessions
- 113 parents took part in life-skills empowerment session
- 75 children and 60 parents took part in parent child therapeutic session
- 21 children and 11 parents went on a social outing to the Baxter Theatre
- 12 children took part in a 5-week art therapy programme

The need to increase the human resource capacity in this programme is urgent. Ideally, we need 1 social worker and 2 auxiliary social workers in each of the three areas.



## Blikkiesdorp Intervention

Molo Songololo continued to engage with the Blikkiesdorp Joint Committee and providing social service support to the children, parents and community. Our achievements during this reporting period included;

- 14 Community members took part in a community review conducted by Molo Songololo
- 19 parents took part in a consultation concerning children out-of-school
- 23 parents and committee members took part in a workshop on school-readiness and registering children at schools.
- 13 children were referred to Department of Home Affairs for birth certificates.
- 100 children took part in a Human Rights Day awareness raising event
- 27 children took part in a rights and responsibilities workshop
- 53 children took part in an educational session on child sexual exploitation



## Madiba Day interventions in Blikkiesdorp

For Nelson Mandela Day Molo Songololo consulted and partnered with the Blikkiesdorp Joint Committee, and conducted an public education and fun programmes for children. On the day we achieved the following;

- 200 children took part in the screening of a video on Nelson Mandela and educational activities promoting children's rights and responsibilities.
- 50 teenage girls took part in a motivational programme.
- 250 children were fed a meal and had a fun day.

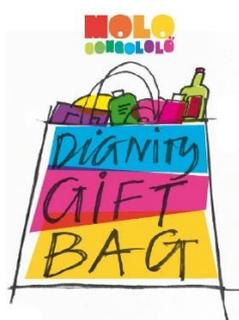


Human Dignity! For many it is assured. But for most of the children and teenagers Molo Songololo work with maintaining Human Dignity is a daily struggle. Regular access to sanitary pads and toiletries is a great challenge for many girls. Girls stay out of school because they do not have any sanitary products to use. Children and teenagers become withdrawn, feel ashamed and develop low self-esteem because they lack toiletries to keep their bodies clean, fresh and healthy.

We appeal to the public, friend and family members to make donations of sanitary pads and toiletries for girls, or to donate R250 to make a DIGNITY GIFT BAG. During this reporting year Molo Songololo conducted two donation drives;

- June – July: 150 DIGNITY GIFT BAGS was made up and distributed
- November – December – 250 DIGNITY GIFT BAGS was made up and distributed

Our June-July donations drive is part of the MADIBA DAY giving campaign. From the funds people donate we purchase sanitary pads and toiletries and put it Together with the kind donations received to make up DIGNITY GIFT BAGS.



### Streetopia – Observatory Street Festival

Molo Songololo took part in the annual STREETOPIA OBS STREET FESTIVAL. We used this occasion to raise awareness about DIGNITY FOR GIRLS.



# Child and Youth Empowerment

The aim with this programme is to empower children and youth to know and understand their rights and responsibilities, to improve their life-skills and leadership skills; and to facilitate their participation in decision-making processes. We mainly target primary and high school learners in Atlantis, Delft and Beaufort West and achieved the following;

- 4500 primary school learners took part in Rights & Responsibilities educational sessions at their schools
- 1400 high school learners took part in life-skills education sessions at their schools
- 2900 learners took part in educational session to prevent sexual exploitation

## • Shout-out for Health - 1

Molo Songololo in partnership with UNICEF-South Africa (who provided funding) conducted gender specific educational workshops at 4 primary schools and 4 high schools in Atlantis and Delft. The aim of the workshops was to educate learners about sexual reproductive health and rights, identify challenges teens face concerning their sexual and reproductive health and services. We achieved the following;

- 4 primary schools was identified and consulted
- 4 high schools was identified and consulted
- 327 learners took part in educational sessions on SRHR for teens



Community dialogues were held in Atlantis & Delft with service providers and young people to discuss strategies to improve teen sexual and reproductive health rights and services.



## Shout-out for Health - 2

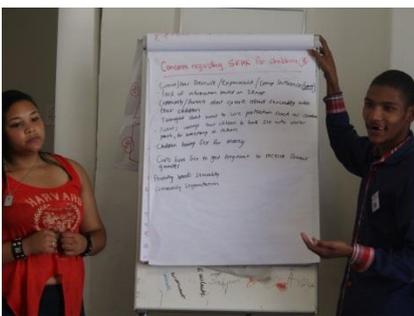
80 learners from 4 primary schools and 4 high schools was selected to participate in follow-up workshops in Atlantis and Delft on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of teenagers.



The workshops was designed to educate learners about sexual and reproductive health and rights of teenagers and create dialogue on sexual health responsibilities , sex, sexual relations and gender dynamics; benefits of keeping bodies clean and healthy, and making positive life-decisions.



A Teen Advocacy Group was established. They group discussed causes of early sex, teen pregnancy, peer pressure and sexual health needs of teens. They discussed the pressure girls get to have sex from boys and men; and the risk teenagers take and consequence for sex and unprotected sex.



The Teen Advocacy Group developed a statement on SRHR and used it to engage their community role-players to improved sexual health services for teens. The project was funded by UNICEF-South Africa and achieved the following;

- 80 learners took part on follow-up workshops on SRHR and to elect a Child Advocacy Group
- 20 Learners was elected to be part of a Child Advocacy Group
- 8 Community Radio interviews was conducted by the child Advocacy Group – public awareness
- 2 Community dialogues with community services providers to improve SRHR for teenagers
- 10 000 copies of Shout-out for Health Newsletter was distributed to all participating schools
- 6 learner took part in the Provincial Youth Parliament to advocate for Teen SRHR
- 6 learner took part in drafting the National Children’s Report on the African Charter

# Teen Advocacy Group - Shout-out for Health

These young people engaged their local health centres and community members to promote teen sexual and reproductive health and rights. They developed an advocacy statement which was used to lobby service providers.



Sibahle Dumapi



Ameer Koopman



Liam de Waal



Chloe Johnson



Masande Ramncwana



Kyle Baber



Albert Lombard



Remique Kennemeyer



Sesona Hlangani



Caylon Kleinsmith



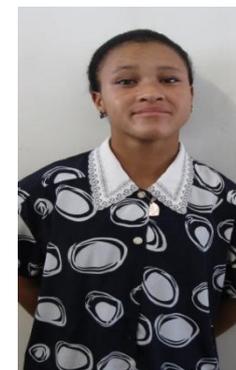
Aleeyah Walters



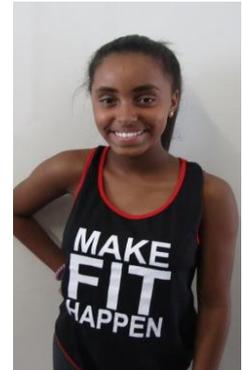
Adrian Sacco



Dillon Samsan



Mariam Koopman



Keasher Fraser



Awiwe Macosa



Amahle Makhasi



Jaydene Joseph



Simamkele Kondlo



Ashleigh Jacobs



Rose Ndaba

# Capacity Building

Facilitated several education workshops and training sessions with various organisations and government department to increase response for child protection. We achieved the following;

- 12 staff members from Mtata Children's Organisation
- 24 Social workers – Western cape Government
- 19 Community workers – Beaufort West Municipality
- 54 Social workers and community workers



We also worked with many parents and caregivers and their children – community dialogues



We also participated in the South African Human Rights Commission – Western Cape hearing on violence in local communities. We presented and education session on child rights and safety issues.



# Awareness and Advocacy

Molo Songololo conducted various awareness and advocacy activities during this reporting year, which included the following forums; i.e.

- SAHRC – Western Cape – public hearings on violence against children
- SAHRC – National – Section 5 Committee on Children
- DoAC – Social Cohesion Advocates – strategic planning meeting
- WC Premier’s Office – Seminar with the Belgium Children’s Protector



We also involve the children and young people in awareness and advocacy activities.



Advocacy for a Commissioner for Children – We engage in the law reform process and made submissions on the Western cape Commissioner for Children’s Bill. We also organised joint NGO Consultations and interventions. We facilitated for young people to participate in this advocacy.



We facilitated for children to make submissions to the Provincial and national parliament.



## Concluding Comments

Molo Songololo is experience various challenges. These challenges are internal and external. The major challenge for this reporting year is the lack of funds and human resources.

Despite the financial challenges the organisation managed to complete a large body of work which way over achieved on initial targets set. However, it is important that the Board address these challenges;

- Board to provide effective leadership, oversight and support to the Management and Staff
- The Management to provide effective leadership, implementation and development of organisation and its activities
- The Board and Management to raise funds for the organisations
- The staff to implement and develop their work effectively
- The organisation to sustain itself

The most important thing now is for the Board to make sure that there is funds so that the organisation can function. This matter is urgent.

Over the last few years the organisation has had a series of resignations particularly regarding the CP&VEP project. Three members resigned last year. Two were 1<sup>st</sup> year Social Workers, and the other a child support worker. Those who join the organisation recently only stay for two or three years and then move on to higher paid jobs. And they able to do so due to the experience gained at Molo Songololo and the lack of increases, benefits and competitive salaries.

It is important that the board ensure that staff salaries are addressed. Taking staff on short-term or one-year contracts does not attract staff rather it pushes off staff. Qualified and skilled staff are constantly on the look-out for better paid jobs.



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