

# Annual Report 2020



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CHILD PROTECTION

**MOLO SONGOLOLO**

## Registration

**Early beginnings: 1979**

**Company's Act - Reg. No: 1995/007290/08**

**DSD: NPO Directorate - NPO No: 083 447**

Designated Child Protection Organisation - C9329

**South African Revenue Services - VAT No: 4950182404**

Public Benefit Organisation – PBO No: 930023237

## What's in a name?

**MOLO SONGOLOLO** in Xhosa (a local South African language) than means **HELLO MILLIPEDE**.

The segments of the worm represent the different communities and the legs of the worm represent the many children working together to promote and protect the rights of the child.

## Main Contract Details

Address: 46 Trill Road, Observatory 7925

P.O. Box 43326, Woodstock 7915

Tel: 021 448 5421 / Fax: 021 448 2024

Email: [info@molo.org.za](mailto:info@molo.org.za)

Website: [www.molosongololo.org](http://www.molosongololo.org)



# 1. Our Purpose

Molo Songololo celebrated 40 YEARS OF CHILD PROTECTION during this reporting year. In 1979, as part of the International Year of the Child initiative, Molo Songololo set out to promote the rights of children, and for children to express themselves on matters affecting them. This purpose remains relevant today.

**Mission**

Promote and protect the rights of children

**Vision**

All children enjoy their rights

**Values**

Respect children and their rights

## Programmes and Activities

Molo Songololo’s work target children between 12 to 17 years - those who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, those at risk and their families; children from poor rural and urban communities and those working with and providing services to children; through the following programmes.

<p><b>Child Protection and Victim Empowerment</b></p> <p>prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation</p>	<p><b>Child and Youth Empowerment</b></p> <p>promote child leadership and participation in decision making</p>	<p><b>Awareness and Advocacy</b></p> <p>promote the rights and protection of children in need</p>	<p><b>Build Capacity</b></p> <p>improve childcare and protection services for children in need</p>
--	--	---	--



## 2. Message from the Chairperson

It's been a great honour for me to be part of Molo Songololo, and now serve in the position of chairperson. Molo Songololo is a dedicated organisation that works with and for children in our local communities. It's an organisation that cares about children and their rights.

Unfortunately, we had to remove members from the board. We recruited and welcomed new members. We also had to say goodbye to long-standing board members, Ms Vantura and Mr Rose. I thank them for their unselfish long service and dedication to Molo Songololo. They now acts as our patrons.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank all the funders, and all those businesses and individuals who made financial contribution to our programmes and activities; and thank you all those who contributed in kind and helped us to maintain our essential services for children in need.

Molo Songololo have an impressive legacy that we all can be proud of. We celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organisation; and used it as an opportunity to connect with past members, staff and partners. We also reviewed the vision and mission, and the strategic priorities of the organisation.

This report reflects on the wonderful work the staff and volunteers did despite the many challenges they experienced in the field and with limited funds. They successfully;

- Provided support and assistance to children who are victims of sexual violence and their families
- Informed and educated children about their rights, and motivate children to make positive-life decisions
- Advocated with children for the establishment of the Western Commissioner for Children
- Work with government and community partners and stakeholder to promote and protect children.

Our biggest challenge is income generation. My fellow board members and I are dedicated to increase our efforts to raise funds and resources for Molo Songololo. I appeal to funders and businesses to support the work of the organisation. This can be done in the following ways;

- Donate money which is needed for salaries, operational and activity costs
- Donate goods, transport, computer equipment, tickets, stationary, materials and resources needed
- Pay directly for costs of salaries, operational and activity costs, transport, petrol, vehicle services, etc.



### 3. Message from the Executive Director

The biggest achievement for Molo Songololo during this reporting year was the finalisation of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act of 2019, and the process to nominate and appoint the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Western Cape Commissioner for Children (WCCC). We celebrated this and our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

For more than 20 years, Molo Songololo advocated and campaigned for the implementation of the Western Cape Constitutional provision to set up a Commissioner for Children. We mobilised children, NGOs, and government role-players through consultations, workshops and networking; and made joint written and oral submissions. We set a new footprint for Child Rights Monitoring in South Africa.

Molo Songololo's work impact many children, families, community members and government and community service providers in Atlantis, Delft and Beaufort West and elsewhere. We thank the funders for their ongoing support, and all those who made donations and support. It helped us to achieve the following;

#### Child Protection and Victim Empowerment Programme

- 250 child victims of sexual violence, those at risk and 130 families received support services
- 4420 children and adults received public education to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation
- 400 children receive DIGNITY GIFT BAGS

#### Child & Youth Empowerment Programme

- 18 240 children took part in public education session and educational workshops and activities
- 740 children took part in consultation workshop on the Commissioner for Children activities

#### Awareness and Advocacy Programme

- 100 NGOs and Government service providers took part a Roundtable on the new Act to set up WCCC
- 180 NGOs and Gov service providers were engaged on the Commissioner for Children

#### Capacity Building Programme

- 380 – CBO and NGO service providers participated in educational sessions and training workshops

The biggest challenge for Molo Songololo remains lack of funds for salaries and operational expenses, lack of capacity to develop the organisation. We need financial support. If you can help us help children, then we want to hear from you.



## 4. Celebrating 40-years of service to children

Molo Songololo’s anniversary celebration was used as an opportunity to reflection on the organisation’s 40-year footprint and legacy. It provided opportunity to RECONNECT people to become part of the **Molo Songololo** family, re-view its vision and mission, programmes and activities, and raise funds to set new footprints for the next 40 years and more.

We brought together 40 past and present members of the board, staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, supporters and partners; who made and are making contributions to the development and survival of Molo Songololo. A fun programme of reflection, entertainment and dialogue was held in March 2020 which allowed participants to reconnect with and recommit to the organisation.



We launched the **#bemolo** campaign to celebrate 40-years of outstanding work done by Molo Songololo. The campaign invites people to become part of the Molo family and support our work. #bemolo means you,

- **CARE** about children, their wellbeing and rights; and Molo Songololo’s work
- **SHARE** your knowledge and skills and network to help Molo Songololo to promote and protect children
- **ACT** to support our fundraisers and mobilise funds and resources for Molo Songololo

**Reconnect 2** took the form of a CONSULTATION with children to determine the relevance of the work of Molo Songololo and suggestions to improve our work. Over 100 children in Atlantis and Delft took part in the consultations. The consultation in Beaufort West could not take place due to funding problems. These events highlighted that Molo Songololo over 40 years;

- Made significant contribution to child rights and protection in South Africa
- Impacted on hundreds and thousands of children – many become educated and successful
- Remains relevant and must promote the voices, participation rights and protection of children
- Must expand capacity to reach more children in need and empower more children
- Re-establish the MOLO SONGOLOLO CHILDREN’S MAGAZINE.

**MOLO SONGOLOLO Annual Report 2020**



## 5. Child Participation – Consult and involve children

A key principle of Molo Songololo’s approach and work is to consult and involve children; and facilitate their participation in decision-making. We conducted a series of consultative workshops with children who take part in Molo Songololo’s activities to engage their concerns and views; to considered it in our planning.

Over 200 children from 12 or 17 years took part in these dialogue and educational sessions. All of them took part in one or more activities or programmes of Molo Songololo. They all live and school in the communities of Atlantis and Delft, and their surrounding areas. Unfortunately, we were unable to conduct a similar process in Beaufort West due to lack of funds.

About the impact of Molo Songololo – the following sentiments were expressed by participants;

- Feel safe, protected, respected and valued by Molo Songololo staff and volunteers
- Able to express self and share feelings, thoughts and opinions with Molo Songololo
- Interact and engage with others and work together with peers
- Help with problems and when treated badly – able to tell Molo Songololo
- Have fun, learn and discover new things – get confidence

About key challenges children face – although children highlighted many hardships that they experience, They did not identify specific health challenges. Key problems highlighted were’

- Poverty, hunger and lack of food and money - low wages and unemployment
- Abuse, harassment, robbery, assault, stabbings, shootings - violence – by peers and adults
- Sexual bullying, harassment, assault, abuse and exploitation – by peers and adults
- Substance abuse – alcohol and drug use – parents, caregivers and peers
- Poor education – school drop-out
- Lack of parental support – absent fathers

About the way forward for Molo Songololo – the participants want molo Songololo to do;

- More regular activities, outings, camps and after-school programmes for children.
- School and community safety programmes, and more recreation activities



## 6. Child Protection & Victim Empowerment Programme

The main objective of this programmes is to prevent and combat child sexual abuse and exploitation. We target the areas of Atlantis, Beaufort West and Delft; and provide essential services for children who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, those at risk and their families. The programme is largely funded by the Department of Social Development – Western cape and the National Lotteries Commission. We also got funding from the HCI Foundation, businesses and individuals who make donations.

Over the last year, the Child Protection and Victim Empowerment Programme provide over 250 children and 130 families (parents) the following essential services;

- Received and accessed reports and identified cases for intake
- Conducted interviews and assessments and develop individual development plan
- Supported investigations and prosecutorial processes through statutory procedures
- Conducted basic counselling for children and parents in need
- Made and received referrals children who needed additional support services
- Conducted therapeutic sessions to promote healing and recovery with children and parent
- Conduct educational sessions that improved relations between children and parents
- Supported children and parents to get children back to school and remain in school
- Provided ongoing support to monitor and support when needed

Child vulnerability is a main factor that put children at risk of child sexual abuse and exploitation. This is brought about by poverty, poor living conditions, lack of parental guidance and supervision, substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual grooming

The programme also facilitates for children to benefit through a number of other activities;

- Meditation for healing sessions, self-motivation and self-esteem
- Art Therapy – for self-awareness and self-expression
- Young Women’s Forum – an interactive motivation, support and empowerment programme for girls
- Dignity 4 Girls - Dignity Gift Bags - sanitary pads and toiletries for girls – (boys get appropriate toiletries)
- Social outings – environmental awareness and appreciation



## 6.1 Promoting wellness and self-care

The children we work with experience and are exposed to various conditions, threats, abuses, violence and daily life that causes anxiety, stress and trauma. They live in a constant state of uncertainty, fear and frustration. This causes various behavioural problems at home, school and with peers. Some are withdrawn and solitary, and others are aggressive and even self-destructive.

Molo Songololo's wellness programme provides children an opportunity to look at themselves, how they feel about themselves, identify things that impact positively and negatively on them, and learn skills to help them cope and improve personal wellness.

**Meditation for personal wellness** – In March and April 2019 Molo Songololo conducted a 5-week meditation programme for 20 children from Delft in partnership with the Tushita Kadampa Meditation Centre in Observatory. The children learnt skills on how to breathe and calm themselves, how to focus the mind and feel peaceful and how to become mindful and improve mental health.

**Wellness and Self-care** - In May and June 2019 Molo Songololo conducted a 4-week programme with 60 children in Atlantis, Beaufort West and Delft promoting personal wellness and Self-care. The programme was developed and implemented by Jara Fucks, a social work student intern with the support of our Social Auxiliary Workers in the respective areas.

**Art for Healing** – This 5-week programme was conducted with two sets of 7 children from Atlantis and Delft respectively. The programme takes children through a creative process of drawing, painting, and working with clay and objects to express themselves. They engage feelings, thoughts and views about themselves.

**Self-care** – A therapeutic approach – this was a 3-week programme conducted in August 2019 that engaged 30 girls in educational sessions on physical and psychological self-care. Participants were able to learn new skills on how to maintain good hygiene, sexual and physical health; and mental health.



## 6.2 Dignity for Girls

The beneficiaries of the Child Protection and Victim Empowerment are mainly girls. Most of them experience many challenges because they are girls. They are ignored, harassed, shamed and made to feel bad about their natural bodily functions; and often do not have sanitary products and toiletries to manage their menstruation in DIGNITY.

Besides providing essential social support services to prevent and combat child sexual abuse and exploitation, Molo Songololo also promote DIGNITY FOR GIRLS aimed to;

- Seek donations and distribute sanitary pads and toiletries for girls in need
- Create awareness of the challenges girls face related to their sexual reproductive health
- Host platforms for girls to engage, share, support and learn from each other

**#NelsonMandelaDayChallenge2019** – This fundraising drive takes place every year during July. It provides members of the public and supporters to donate sanitary pads and toiletries for girls in the CP&VEP who are in need, as part of the NELSON MANDELA DAY do good campaign in celebration of MADIBA’s birthday and legacy. We managed to make up and distribute 200 DIGNITY GIFT BAGS.

**#XmasGiving2019** – This fundraising drive takes place every year in December. We use the Christmas season of goodwill, sharing and giving to ask members of the public and supporters to donate sanitary pads and toiletries for girls in the CP&VEP who are in need. We managed to make up 200 DIGNITY GIFT BAGS. We also made up and distributed 50 DIGNITY GIFT BAGS for the boys we work with.

**DIGNITY GIFT BAGS** – These bags are made up and distributed to girls in Atlantis, Beaufort West and Delft twice a year. Boys receive a Dignity Gift Bag once a year. Each bag contains sanitary pads and basic toiletries that help girls to maintain HUMAN DIGNITY and can last for 3 months or more. When girls run out of supplies, they approach our offices for supplies.

**SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS** - the lack of respect, privacy and dignity afforded to girl and their sexual reproductive health and rights is alarming. Every girl everywhere deserves better.



## 6.3 Young Women's Forum - Leadership Camp for Girls

During the month of August, Women's Month, Molo Songololo conducted weekly education and fun sessions for over 200 girls between the age of 12 and 17 years. This forms part of the Young Women's Forum programme of dialogue, sharing and learning to increase mindfulness, maintain personal wellness and safety. The programme also focusses on awareness, identification, reporting and preventing sexual exploitation.

20 participants were invited from the Young Women's Forums in Atlantis and Delft to attend an educational fun adventure weekend leadership Camp for Girls. The camp was held in November at the Princess Vlei Eco Park Camp site which was sponsored by the Cape Town Parks & Recreation Department.

The camp was conducted by the Molo Songololo staff. A cook was contracted to ensure that healthy meals are prepared and served. The camp site provided adventure out-door activities which was energetic, engage participants in problem-solving and leadership activities. The rest of the inter-active fun and educational programme focussed on the following;

- Promoting mindfulness, self-esteem and personal wellness through interactive exercises
- Learning social confidence, self-motivation and goal setting through various exercises and dialogue
- Leadership and working with others

### Empowering the girl child

Molo Songololo work with children indicate that girls age 12 to 17 years are more likely than their male counterparts to be abused, are given household responsibilities, care for sibling and even removed from school to do so. Girls are not treated fairly and equally. They are also shamed because of their normal natural bodily functions.

Molo Songololo is well placed to develop and expand the Young Women's Forum as a platform for girls to

- Get together to engage and learn from each other, develop life-skills and leadership
- Raise their voices and advocate for their rights to be respected and protected
- Gain awareness and education about their reproductive health and rights
- Prevent and combat sexual abuse and exploitation

Lack of funding prevented us from conducting the parallel YOUNG MEN'S FORM activities.



## 7. Child & Youth Empowerment Programme

Over 15 000 children to part in public education sessions held as schools to get learners to know and understand their rights and responsibilities. We also conducted educational workshops for 3240 children to develop life-skills and leadership skills. 78 children participated in public decision-making forums and public hearings. We also engaged parents of children we worked with. Through the CP&VEP programmes we achieved the following;

### Atlantis

- 80 learners participated in a Consultative Education Workshop
- 87 Children took part in two Educational Workshop
- 4 Children / 2 Parents participated in parent and child therapeutic workshop

### Delft

- 130 Learners participants took part in two Consultative Education Workshops
- 87 Children took part in six therapeutic workshops with children
- 151 Children took part in 6 Educational Workshops
- 27 Parents took part in a Parental Educational Workshop
- 10 Parents - took part in educational workshops

### Beaufort West

- 41 Children took part in Therapeutic Workshops with Children x 8
- 170 Children took part in Educational Workshop x 4
- 15 Children / 13 Parents took part in therapeutic workshop x 3
- 21 Parents took part in parent support workshop x 4

Due to the Programme Coordinator's health challenges we were unable to conduct several planned Activities. This programme must be capacitated with staff and resources. There is a great need for educational life-skills programmes to prevent school drop-out and substance abuse amongst teen.



## 7.1 Environmental awareness and care

Most of the children Molo Songololo work with seldom have an opportunity to explore and enjoy their immediate environments. For children to be motivated, inspired and maintain a healthy lifestyle, they should be able to explore and enjoy the natural environment.

Molo Songololo use excursions to educate children in a positive way about the environment in order to create a sense of consciousness and participation, and to help children acquire a knowledge of the linkage and balance between the health of the individual, society, and the environment.

We had 5 excursions for 83 children with the aim to;

- stimulate interest for maintaining a balanced environment and for acquiring skills that reflect care and protection of the environment.
- raise awareness on the responsible involvement of children in their environment, which can improve the health of children
- get involved in collaboration with others to clean up and protect the environment and to solve problems due to pollution
- train and practice habits and learn practical skills in order to maintain a healthy, safe and clean environment at home, school and in community
- raise awareness among the local authorities to designate as many green spaces and playgrounds for children as possible.

Besides the historical sites and landmarks, taking children to the beach, the forest, a river or up the mountain can be very exciting and education; and life changing;

- “I was very scared when I saw the water. It was my first time to go to the beach. The water was cold And salty. I would like to go again”
- “Why don’t we have these nice things in Delft where we live? We have no parks and gardens”

Molo Songololo must expand this work and get businesses, national parks and individuals to sponsor these excursions which are life-changing experiences for children who live in environments are not very healthy and safe.



## 7.2 Empowering children to protect themselves

Child sexual exploitation remains a growing and serious problem. Children from 12 to 17-years are very vulnerable. They are exposed to sexual advances from an early age, and experience severe peer pressure to be sexual and engage in sexual acts. Some are targeted for the purpose of exploiting them sexually. Molo Songololo conduct a series of public education sessions with school going learners to empower them to protect themselves during this last reporting year.

### Sexual grooming

1700 children engaged in educational workshops on Child Sexual Grooming. Teenagers, because of their sexual developmental stage, many teenagers are targeted and groomed by adults or peers for the purpose of exploiting them sexually. These sessions help children to understand;

- What is sexual grooming?
- What signs to look-out for to identify sexual grooming?

### Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation

2840 children took part in educational sessions on conducted at primary and high schools in Atlantis, Delft and Beaufort West. These sessions focussed on the following issues;

- What is child sexual exploitation?
- How to identify child sexual exploitation?
- What can you do to prevent and combat child sexual exploitation?

### Cyber bullying and sexual exploitation

3700 children took part in education session on conducted in Atlantis and Delft. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints we were unable to conduct sessions in Beaufort West. These workshops focussed on the following issues;

- What is cyber bullying?
- Cyber sexual grooming, abuse and exploitation?
- The law and exposing and encouraging children to create, post or receive sexual content and images
- Reporting cyber bullying, sexual abuse and exploitation.



## 7.3 School Holiday Programmes

When schools close for the holidays, children usually have nothing much to do. There are very little organised recreation, sports, cultural or educational activities and facilities that they can enjoy in the communities of Atlantis, Beaufort West and Delft.

Molo Songololo usually receive requests from libraries, schools and community organisations for school holiday programmes. These requests are usually for educational sessions to engage children as a result of concerns regarding the following,

- Substance abuse amongst children
- Violence and crime in the local communities
- Teen pregnancy and children dropping out of school
- Gangsterism and its impact on children

Molo Songololo integrate these issues into thematic sessions and activities that we conduct and offer to schools, libraries and community groups, i.e.;

- Rights and responsibilities -
- Keeping safe and protecting oneself from cyber bullying
- Preventing sexual abuse and sexual exploitation

Despite limited resources and capacity Molo Songololo managed to integrating funs, sports and creative activities, and conduct the following;

- 5 educational session for 120 children during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter holidays
- 7 educational session for 200 children during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter holidays
- 2 educational sessions for 65 children during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter holidays
- 6 educational sessions for 280 children during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter holidays

Molo Songololo must seek funding and increase capacity and resources to role out a school holiday activities for children in our targeted communities, as well as responding to request from other communities; through and effective volunteer programme. Volunteers can be mobilised from the local communities



## 7.4 Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament 2019

This is an annual platform hosted by the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in partnership with the national Department of Social Development to facilitate for children's engagement with the legislature at national and provincial level on government's progress made to implement the rights of the child, as prescribed by the Children's Act. Children from all over the country participate in this initiative.

Molo Songololo was approached by the Western Cape Premier's Office, who is responsible for organising the provincial child delegates to send 10 children to a provincial consultation for children. Our Child and Youth Empowerment Coordinator, Ronnie Ngalo, organised the children from the Molo Songololo Children's Forum members and chaperoned the delegation.

At the Consultation, participants were engaged in icebreakers and dialogue on the following issues;

- Key challenges children face in the Western cape and nationally
- Progress made by government to implement the rights of the child
- Solution to address the violations of children's rights
- Election of the Western cape delegation.

Two participants from the Molo Songololo Children's Forum was elected to be part of the 10 persons delegation to the Nelson Mandela Parliament 2019 which was held in KwaZulu Natal. Ronnie Ngalo facilitated for the travel and preparations of the Molo Songololo Delegation.

The 2019 Children's Parliament coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United National Convention on the Rights of the child and adopted the theme: Reflecting on 25 years of Child Rights in south Africa – Challenges and Opportunities. The following reflect the delegation's impressions;

- It was a life changing experience to meet children from all over South Africa
- We felt safe and had comfortable accommodation and good healthy food
- The programme busy and we worked for long hours
- We made contributions to the discussions and represented our province well.
- We drafted a declaration which will be presented to parliamentarians.



## 8. Awareness and Advocacy – Roundtable Discussion Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act, 2019

On 31 May 2019, Molo Songololo brought together over representatives from child rights and protection Organisations, government departments and child rights monitoring groups together to discuss the finalisation and implications of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act.

Over 100 participants attended the Round Table Discussion. A wide variety of speakers contributed to the Discussions. The main speakers were;

- Marian Jacobs – Prof. Child Health
- Angie Makwetla – SAHRC Commissioner for Monitoring Child Rights
- Carol Bower – UN & AU Concluding Comments & Recommendations
- Mr Lala – Chief Director - Dept. of the Premier – Regulations & Proclamation
- Lucy Jamieson - Children’s Institute – Considerations – insights from research findings
- Comments and Questions for Clarity for floor

Speakers addressing the implications and implementation of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act included the following;

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ➤ SAHRC – Commissioner Gaum                        | ➤ DoE – Rochshana Kemp              |
| ➤ Disabled Child Action Group -Sandra Ambrose      | ➤ DSD – <i>representative</i>       |
| ➤ AVCVV – Nicollette van der Walt                  | ➤ DoF&CD – Acting Head Ashika Singh |
| ➤ SAPS Ombudsman – Mr Brand                        | ➤ Trauma Centre – Valdi Van Reenen  |
| ➤ Child Protection Collaborative – Tony Lawrence   | ➤ Ilita Labantu – Mandisa Monakali  |
| ➤ Western Cape Street Children Forum – Janice King | ➤ DoHA – <i>representative</i>      |

The Round Table was an overwhelming success highlighting the interests in and need for an Independent Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism. Participants concluded that the Act must be implemented without delay. The outcomes of the Children’s Consultation and the Roundtable was presented in a submission to the Western Cape Parliament and Premier.



## 8.1 Awareness and Advocacy - Children's Consultation Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act 2019

In July 2019, Molo Songololo in partnership with the Film & Publications Board and over 20 NGOs brought together children from all over the Western Cape Province to consult on the Western Cape Commissioner for Children's Act to appoint the Western Cape Commissioner for Children.

Over 200 children from age 12 to 17-years, from as far as Beaufort West, George and Worcester, attended the consultation where they;

- Were informed and educated on the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act, 2019 to appoint a Western Cape Commissioner for Children.
- Develop guidelines for children's participation and involvement in the appointment and work of the Western Cape Commission for Children.
- Identify advocacy activities to ensure the early finalization and implementation of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children's Act, 2019, and appointment of the Children's Commissioner

The Task Team, led by Molo Songololo, organised the Children's Consultation and mobilised children through their organisations and networks, included the following groups; Molo Songololo, Illita Labantu, The Justice Desk, Disabled Children Action Group, Child Protection Collaborative, Western Cape Street Children Forum, The Children's Resource Centre, Sozo Foundation and Cesvi Foundation, ect.

The main outcomes of the Children's Consultation were;

- Not many participants knew about the Western Cape Commissioner for Children's Act to appoint the Western Cape Commissioner for Children before the consultation.
- Participants found the consultation informative, fun and educational.
- All agreed that a Commissioner for Children is needed to protect children and their rights
- Participants want children to be involved in the appointment of the Commissioner
- Participants want the commissioner to be someone they can relate to and who will protect them and there rights



## 8.2 Awareness and Advocacy – NGO Task Team Appointment of Western Cape Commissioner for Children

Although the new law, the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act came into effect in March 2019, the process to appoint the Western Cape Commissioner was delayed for several months. Molo Songololo facilitated several discussions and decisions for the NGO Task Team advocating for the finalisation and implementation of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children's Act. Several submissions were made to engage the parliamentary process.

Once the call for nominations for the position of Commissioner was advertised in September by the Standing Committee on Social Development of the Provincial Parliament, the Task Team encouraged NGOs and CBOs to make submit, as well as children.

The Task Team made a submission raising concerns about the lack of communication and marketing to inform children about the appoint-met process.; and the short period to make submissions, and highlighted the need to consider the following when considering the suitability of candidates;

- Qualifications, experience and expertise of candidates?
- What makes the candidate stand out and what qualities are immediately noticeable?
- How does the candidate present him/herself, and what is the candidate passionate about?  
Record of working with children and how does the candidate relate to children?
- Why are you recommending this candidate?

The Task Team also noted that unsuitable candidate and objections must;

- Be base in fact, honest, trustworthy and fair and not rumours and falsehoods
- Show qualifications, skills and experience does not match the requirements
- Reveal attitudes, passions, temperament, character and suitability for job is not evident
- Establish inability to act independently, unbiased, opening and fairly

A short list of 15 candidates was publish in December 2019



## 8.3 Awareness and Advocacy – A victory for Children! Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act, 2019

For more than 20-years, Molo Songololo have advocated and lobbied for the implementation of the Western Cape Constitutional provision that prescribes the establishment of the Commissioner for Children. Molo Songololo together with many other NGOs and children, made written and oral submissions over many years and helped to draft the new historic law, to appoint the Western Cape Commissioner for Children.

Molo Songololo commend all the children and young people, and NGOs who participated in the consultations, and especially those who took part in the;

- Drafting of submissions
- Attending and addressing the public hearing
- Engaged the nomination and appointment processes

The new historic law state that the Commissioner for Children, which is now established, must “monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise and report on, matters related to children”. NGOs and Children stated in their submissions that the Commissioner must be;

- **INDEPENDENT** – free of any interference
- **COMMITTED** – to hold the government accountable for the implementation of the rights of the child.
- **CHILD FOCUSED & CENTRED** – focus on the rights, interests and protection of all children; and especially those in need of care and protection.
- **PRIORITISING CHILD PARTICIPATION** –involve children / young people in its work; consult with children, and consider children views and opinions and reflect their interests.
- **ACCESSIBLE** – children must have access to the Commissioner. Special consideration must be given to ensure children from poor rural and urban, and under resourced and out laying areas have access.
- **SPEAKING OUT** - on behalf of children.

Molo Songololo’s work in this regard is not done. The organisation must continue to engage the process and facilitate for children’s involvement in the unfolding developments. Furthermore, the organisation must advocate for a viable national full-time Commissioner for Children.



## 9. Capacity building Programme

Despite financial constraints and lack of capacity, Molo Songololo managed to facilitate a number of educational sessions aimed to improve childcare and protection responses of service providers. Several education and training presentations and workshops was conducted for NGOs and government service providers; i.e.

- 200 participants - City of Cape Town – Defining Trafficking in Persons and responses to combat TiP
- 40 participants - World Vision, Atlantis – Practice Standard for VEP
- 50 participants – Western Cape child Protection Forum – Child Participation policy Guidelines

In March 2019, Molo Songololo concluded that the last workshop of a 4-series training workshop for the Glen Elgin Community organisations (GECO) in Grabouw. The 20 participants were farmworkers from the surrounding areas. The successful workshop focussed on the following;

- Mindfulness and personal wellness
- Social awareness and engagement
- Human Rights and Children’s Rights

In May 2019 Molo Songololo conducted a special educational discussion for 20 representatives of Child Rights NGOs on the Western Cape Commissioner for Children’s Act. The aim was to get participants to understand the provisions of the Act, identify gaps and priorities for joint intervention to implement the Act and establish the Western cape Commissioner for Children.

Molo Songololo hosted a meeting for national Department of Social Development on the implementation of the President’s Emergency Plan to Combat and Prevent Gender Based Violence. 30 NGO representative attended the educational session and helped to shape the implementation plan in the province.

Unfortunately, Molo Songololo had to cancel a planned training session on Child Rights Practice Standards for organisations working with children in the Beaufort West Karoo district. Expected funds for transport, accommodation, venue and refreshments did not materialise.



## 10. Fundraising Activities

Besides donor funding, Molo Songololo conduct several fundraising activities to build the Molo Songololo Brand to raise funds and establish networks businesses and individuals who supporters of the organisation.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Molo Songololo Comedy Show** fundraiser in partnership with the Cape Town Comedy Club took place in April 2019. Board and staff members sell tickets to their family, friends and Molo Songololo contacts. All attendees were issued with a small gift bag in celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organisation and 20 lucky draw winners won various prizes. The eventing was a great success. thanx to all those who bought tickets and attended; and especially the talented performers.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Molo Songololo Nelson Mandela Day Challenge** is a donation drive to collect sanitary pads and toiletries for girls in the Child Protection and Victim Empowerment Programme. Molo Songololo use the kind or cash donations to make up DIGNITY GIRFT BAGS of the essentials every girl need for her period and her self-esteem. We thank all those who contributed to this donation drive.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Molo Songololo Spring Bazaar** was held on 28 September 2019. It was a very successful event. Over 60 people attended the event, including board members, staff and children from Delft and Atlantis. We thank all those who made donations of bric-a-brac, second time round items, plants, bakes and books. We especially thank those who came to support and buys items.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Molo Songololo Open House – Streetopia Observatory** was held on the first Saturday in December. MoloSongololo use the occasion of the Community Street Festival to open the offices to the public, have a stall, do a street collection for DIGNITY FOR GIRLS, and Drop-Off for the Xmas -Giving Donation Drive; and host a pop-up exhibition thanx to Cathal McKee from Fiece-Pop.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Molo Songololo SUMMER FOOD AFFAIR** – this is a fundraiser initiated by Angus Leendertz and Friends was held in December to raise funds for Molo Songololo. It was very successful. Attendees pay and enjoyed delicious foods and drinks, and a live band. Thanx to all those who donated and made it a success.

**Molo Songololo need volunteers to help organise these fundraising activities.**



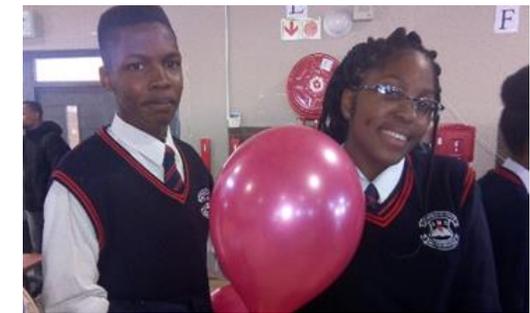
# 11. Contributors and Funders

Molo Songololo is a registered and designated non-profit organisation. Those who benefit from the work and services of the organisation are children, they include;

- Children who are victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, those at risk and their families
- School going children from poor and under source families, schools and communities
- Local community members and community organisations
- Government and NGO service providers

Molo Songololo rely on government, funding agencies, businesses and the public for funds and support. We express our heartfelt gratitude and thank to all those who contributed to the organisation financially so we can implement the work reflected in this report. We also particularly thank the following individuals who made personal contribution and supported Molo Songololo’s fundraisers and work;

- Board members Vernon Norton, Kurt Johnson, Dale van der Berg, Matilda Vantura and Vernon Rose
- Angus Leendertz and Associates from Australia
- Valery Govind and Michelle Petersen
- Angus Leendertz and Cape Town Friends
- Phumlani Malinga
- The friends of Patric Solomons
- All the volunteers



Angus Leendertz & Associates  
Molo Songololo Australian  
Support Group



## 12. Networking partners

Molo Songololo work with a wide range of organisations, formations and initiatives to promote the rights And protection of children. We are grateful for the support we receive from all partners. We look forward to continue working with you to advance the rights and protection of children. Partners include;

- The South African Human Rights Commission
- Department Social Development National
- Department Socia Development – Western Cape
- SAPS – FCS Provincial and district offices
- Department of Health – Clinics
- Department of Education and all the schools
- The City of Cape Town – Social Development Unit.
- The Film and Publications Board –
- Department of Justice
- National child Protection Forum
- Provincial Child Protection Forum
- National and Provincial Trafficking Task Teams
- Western Cape Street Children’s Forum (WCSCF)
- Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability
- Community Chest
- Child Welfare Society
- Safeline
- childLine
- World Vision South Africa
- Deaf-SA Western Cape
- Children Resource Centre
- ACVV
- Disabled Children’s Action Group - DICAG
- Trauma Centre
- The Justice Desk
- Western Cape Child Protection Collaborative
- Justice Desk Africa Unite
- Ilitha La Bantu
- Embrace Dignity
- Homestead
- Early Learning Resource Unit
- The Bayakhanya Foundation NPC
- Etafeni Day Care Centre
- Beautiful Gate South Africa
- Cape Town Peace Centre
- Inclusive Education South Africa
- Child Welfare – Stellenbosch
- Yizani Sakhe Organisation
- Leliebloem Children’s Home
- Grassroots
- Jelly Beanz
- Down Syndrome South Africa
- The Parents Centre
- Hermanus Rainbow Trust - Parenting Worx
- And many more

