

20 20



Annual Status Report

THE VUSA RUGBY & LEARNING ACADEMY



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Chairman's Report

ANTONY REELER

2020 has been a surreal year. After 10 years in Gauteng, my family and I returned 'home' to the Western Cape as I took on the role of Principal of Bishops Diocesan College.

It was only upon my arrival at Bishops that I was introduced to VUSA and I immediately knew that this special programme would be an exciting part of my Bishops journey. I accepted the Chairmanship without hesitation.



Both the COVID pandemic and the #BLM campaign focused attention on disparities in economic opportunity between different race groups in South Africa (and globally). Holding a leadership role in a largely privileged school provides great scope for sharing knowledge and resources with those in less fortunate circumstances. A collaboration between VUSA and Bishops provides opportunities to learn what the real challenges are that communities face and how best we can support each other.

The social and economic impact of COVID-19 is unlike anything experienced by the world this century. Many NGOs have had to close their doors due to economic challenges faced by donors. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from our incredible partners and community members. Their generosity has meant that 500 children received a meal each day. Academic support was offered in the form of hard copy worksheets and board games.

Prior to COVID, we were fortunate to be able to take the children on a few excursions as well as to the Paarl Rugby Festival. Social distance sport sessions have once again resumed. We are pleased to report that despite reduced salaries, we have been able to retain our 13 staff members. This incredible team has provided VUSA beneficiaries (and others) with food, mentorship, and support in a frightening and uncertain time.

I am a firm believer that times of crisis give rise to new opportunities. There is work to be done but 'awakening opportunities' is our VUSA mantra and in 2021, that is precisely what we will continue to do.

Stay safe and thank you again for your support during these unprecedented times. I look forward to my continued journey with VUSA and Bishops as we try to make a difference in the lives of young people in our city.

Tony Reeler
CHAIRMAN

Programme Manager

MAK KAHLA



2020 kicked off with a lot of excitement and extensive plans. The programme has experienced significant growth in recent years and our beneficiaries have been credited, both on and off the field.

The 2020 calendar included tours to the KES under 13 rugby festival in Johannesburg and the Bishops Rugby Festival. A highlight was an invitation to the The Princess Charlene of Monaco, Saint Devote Tournament through our ambassador Siya Kolisi. This would have been a memorable tour for everyone involved.

Beneficiaries were also looking forward to the normal league fixtures but then... on the 23rd of March 2020 the President announced the lockdown for a period of 21 days. Little did we know that this would be the end of the 2020 rugby season which had so much potential on the back of the Springbok World Cup Victory.

Whilst financial restrictions meant many NGOs were forced to close their doors we were fortunate. Our staff and partners went over and above the call of duty and VUSA was in a position to continue to support the community at a time when it was most needed.

There are too many people to name and thank but a special shout out to our partners, Bishops parents and the Ubumbo family, for their extensive support. Parents of VUSA beneficiaries have reached out to our staff during this time and thanked us for the work we are doing in the community. Whilst we have always known that VUSA provides a supportive outlet for our children, this past period has highlighted the necessity for safe spaces like VUSA for children of the community. We continued with the feeding program, supporting families that were impacted by COVID 19. We have provided PPE, food packs, clothing and some educational worksheets to keep the kids busy while they are at home.

As turbulent times often do, COVID has strengthened our team and brought our coaches closer together. These men and women showed so much strength and character during lockdown and despite fears for their own health and safety, they never hesitated to support their children.

Since level 1, our program has been running at 90% capacity. Without access to the Langa sports grounds, coaches continue to run small socially distant training sessions and we are grateful to our ECD Partners, Nomonde and Dalukhanyo who have kindly opened up their premises to allow our kids to use their space.

I would also like to give thanks to each and every person who has continued to support us in so many different ways.

Kind regards
Makabongwe

2020 OVERVIEW

BRENDAN FOGARTY

This has been a year of growth, fear, courage and strength, and we now find ourselves with a greater understanding of who we are and what we are trying to achieve.

2020 was filled with promise. A strong partnership with Bishops Diocesan College saw the start of peer learning programmes between our two communities. Invitations to the Bishops and KES rugby festival and an international tour to the Monaco Sevens festival would have opened a world of opportunities for the children, many of whom have never left Langa.

When COVID struck, sport tours and academic support became inconsequential as thousands in the Langa community found themselves in need. Children were literally starving. Despite many hurdles we were able to set up two pop-up soup kitchens and with endless support from our incredible partners, both old and new, VUSA coaches were able to feed 500 children a day.

As COVID restrictions begin to lift, VUSA once again offers after-school programmes. Without access to the Langa Sports Ground, programmes have continued to take place at the COVID feeding stations. Without the academic centre conveniently next door, we have seen less children attending after school academic sessions, however as exams approach we expect these numbers to increase.

We have recently consulted with Waves for Change, experts in the field of after-school support with extensive knowledge on best practice in monitoring and evaluation. Tim Conibear and Fin Kettlewell have worked with VUSA staff, training them on the Coach Assist App. Tim is working on a logic framework with the management team and exploring new methods of monitoring and evaluation.

COVID-19 has caused huge damage to the economy and the next few years will be difficult, however the need for organisations like VUSA are now more important than ever.

We are so grateful for all the support we have received this year; to the volunteers who have made soup and sandwiches, to our partners who have kept our staff employed and our beneficiaries fed, to the donors who have given, despite suffering their own loss, we cannot thank you enough for creating opportunities for our little ones.

Participant challenges

LOGIC MODEL FRAMEWORK

This Logic Model Framework was developed in collaboration with Waves for Change ***World renowned & award winning South African evidence-based intervention program, for at risk youth.



Programme Interventions

LOGIC FRAMEWORK

Programmes

Impact

Resilience Factors

Changes

Impacts

1. EXPOSURE TO RUGBY AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2. ACCESS TO CARING ADULT

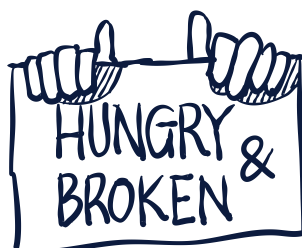
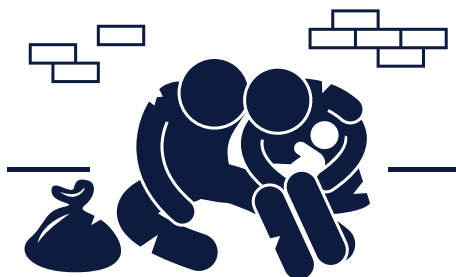
3. ACCESS TO SAFE SPACE (INCL. FEEDING PROGRAMME)

4. ACADEMIC SUPPORT (ENGLISH & MATHS & ECD)

- Feel supported by coaches, peers
- Feel safe at practice
- Feel they can share
- • Have fun →
- Learn new social, sports, academic skills
- Feel more

- Self Control
- Self Discipline
- Peer Relations
- School attendance
- Interest in Sport
- self esteem

- Cope with Change
- • Control Behaviour
- Improved school work



A DAY'S JOURNEY

COMPARING TWO SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Early morning wake-up - Dresses self and siblings



Woken by parent

Leaves home hungry without school lunch

Travels to school on foot - passes through some dangerous areas

Not equipped for a day at school

A safe space with mentors, sport, food and academic support



Negative influences: drugs, alcohol, gangs



Packed school lunch

Safe commute with parent

Ready and equipped for day at school

Attend sport, clubs and societies before going home to cooked dinner

Peer Learning

PARTNERSHIP WITH BISHOPS PUPILS

“There is a wealth of evidence that peer teaching is extremely effective for a wide range of goals, content, and students of different levels and personalities (McKeachie et al., 1986). Peer teaching involves one or more students teaching other students in a particular subject area and builds on the belief that “to teach is to learn twice” (Whitman, 1998).”

With the above quotes in mind we launched our Bishops Prep/VUSA peer learning programme. Boys from the Prep led by Mr Gareth Jordan (HOD Maths) were bussed out to Langa armed with fun interactive maths worksheets and games. The lessons proved fun, engaging and productive for all.

Sadly the COVID pandemic brought all of this to an abrupt end! We are hoping to start again in 2021 with a bigger programme hoping to incorporate boys from the College. There would be a powerful synergy created as we are then able to give key input into the vital years as children prepare for the Grade 12 exams. As we know success in these exams opens doors of opportunity to tertiary studies and jobs.

This interaction between the children will start the very links we need between communities as we strive to create social cohesion. The Bishops community is a wonderful platform from which we can launch key interventions into driving change and creating opportunities.

Raymond Ackerman ran very successful night classes at Bishops in the late 1940's for support staff at Bishops and those employed in the Rondebosch area. In a recent interview we had with him, he stated that so much of his philanthropic attitude was formed during these classes run at Bishops. A powerful endorsement of what we hope to achieve and create at The VUSA Rugby and Learning Academy.



Vusa Testimony

"I grew up in Nyanga township which was the toughest time in my upbringing. Especially as a 13-year-old boy. The environment is consumed by drugs and alcohol and these circumstances make it challenging for one to become a success..."

"I truly believe that the VUSA Academy is well equipped in ensuring that young boys in the township not only become better men in society but also better human beings. The resources that the academy dedicated to me have provided me with invaluable lessons. as a Springbok player, I can proudly say that I am a product of the VUSA Academy."

SIKHUMBUZO
NOTSHE

To watch a short clip on Notshe's VUSA journey

[**click here**](#)

https://youtu.be/EEB5_wx3b9U



COVID Report

FROM SUPPORT TO SURVIVAL



Covid -19 has caused the world to stand still. For some this meant life slowing down and reconnecting with family. For others, it has caused financial strain and worry and for many it has caused absolute destitution.

Many of the VUSA beneficiaries were vulnerable prior to lock-down and relied on a hot daily meal provided by the VUSA programme. Covid stripped many 'low income' families to 'no income' families and as lockdown continued so did the need to feed.

VUSA coaches rose to the challenge, implementing COVID safety measures at two pop-up soup kitchens. This meant greater accessibility for more children ensuring shorter travel times and queues



Thanks to corporate South Africa (Kepu, Shoprite, Bishops, Woodstock Brewery, The Lunchbox Fund, Knead Bakery, The Mapula Trust, the R B Hagart Trust, Sygnia Asset Management, Rise Against Hunger, TLC, Woolworths, The Picnic Company and Origin Food Service Management), farmers (the Dicey, Buchanan, Graaff, Kilpin, and Dom families) and civil society (too many to mention), we have been able to provide meals for between 400 and 500 children each day.

VUSA coaches also used the time schools were closed to give Nomonde creche a makeover. Thanks again to the incredible families who donated paint, planter boxes, toys books and a jungle gym to assist with the refurbishment of this little ECD centre.



"My granny used to say "God gave us two hands, one for helping yourself and the other for helping others." I volunteer my time to your project during this difficult time because I love putting a smile to every child out there and Vusa is giving me the opportunity to do that."

VUSA Volunteer

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



46800

**MEALS SERVED
THROUGH LOCKDOWN**



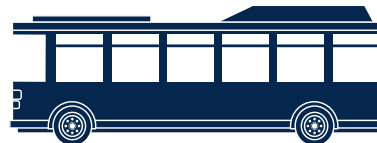
5000

**WORKSHEETS
DISTRIBUTED**



13 COACHES

**EMPLOYED THROUGH
LOCKDOWN**



5 EXCURSIONS

**4 OUTINGS AND 1
RUGBY MATCH**



500 MASKS

**MASKS, SANITISER,
THERMOMETERS AND
RAIN PONCHOS ISSUED**



1 ECD MAKE-OVER

**NOMONDE CRECHE
PAINTED INDOORS AND
OUT, GARDEN CLEAN-UP**

Shaping Leaders

"Leaders instil in their people a hope for success and a belief in themselves. Positive leaders empower people to accomplish their goals." (Unknown).

We have many great leaders at VUSA from our Director right down to our players. We are very cognisant of the fact that many of the VUSA beneficiaries do not have strong role models at home (some are from child-headed or abusive households), and each child is exposed to anti-social behaviour in their immediate surroundings with gangsterism, drug and alcohol abuse being common in Langa. Our coaches are our greatest asset and our strongest leaders, providing positive mentorship to our participants. How they teach and treat the children has a direct impact on the way the participants behave and model themselves.

We only have to reflect on the recent South African World Cup victory to see how true leadership can unite a team. Fortunately, rugby is a sport that creates the perfect environment to incorporate leadership skills. Children are taught respect (for the captain, coaches, teammates, and referees' decisions), punctuality, comradery, teamwork, communication, direction, creativity, commitment – the list goes on. Children who acquire these skills are able to play a more meaningful role in their communities, schools and their families.



Staff Testimonials

IF YOU LOVE YOUR JOB, YOU'LL NEVER WORK A DAY

Working with children at Vusa is a wonderful experience. Being a role model to kids motivates me to be better. I know these children grow up in difficult surroundings. Vusa gives me a platform to help our children understand that with sport and academics you can go far and have access to more opportunities, seeing children happy every time they see me makes me feel empowered and motivated. In the words of Oscar Wilde "The best way to make children good is to make them Happy."

Siya Soci

"I'm extremely proud and consider it a privilege to be an employee at Vusa. I've learnt a lot about myself, what I'm good at and I feel I have a better understanding of the impact a positive role model can have in shaping the life of a young athlete. Vusa has helped me fall in love with rugby all over again and I take pride in being able to help the kids in our academy. Vusa has become an integral part of my life and I am happier for it."

Siphelele
Njobeni

Growing up in rural Eastern Cape there was always someone looking out for us in the community. Growing up in Langa is hard for children. They often have no-one to depend on but themselves. I'm glad they have VUSA.

Masi January



What's next

2021 GOALS

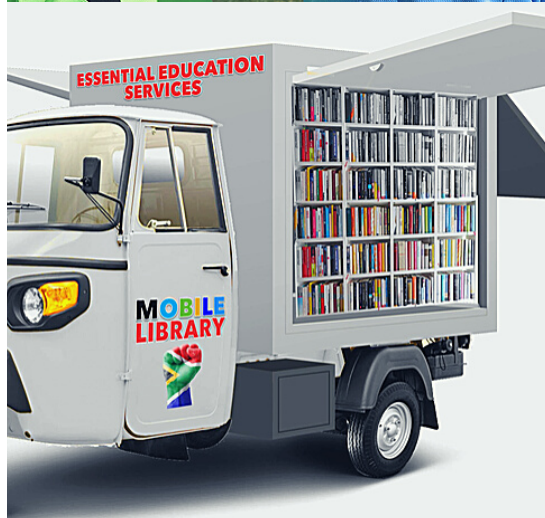


Women's Rugby

2021 will see a greater focus on increasing the number of girls who attend the programme. Young girls are the most vulnerable members of a community and rugby provides a wonderful space to encourage and empower. With gender-based violence being prevalent in South African culture, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement around the world, VUSA engages with children on these topics to teach them about the importance of understanding, tolerance, acceptance, and kindness.

Mobile Library

2019 saw the launch of the VUSA ECD programme. In 2021 we will introduce the VUSA mobile library - a tuk tuk stocked with books and games. These will be circulated amongst our 4 ECD centres daily.



Academic Support

2021 will see a renewed partnership with Edunova providing online academic support to learners in English and Maths. This provides access to computers and self directed learning approaches.

Recreation

VUSA's goal is to create a safe space which allows children access to new experiences and the opportunity to experience the wonders of the city they live in.



Staff Development

In 2021 we will offer coaches a series of workshops teaching them how to identify and work with vulnerable children who have experienced trauma and live in stressful environments.

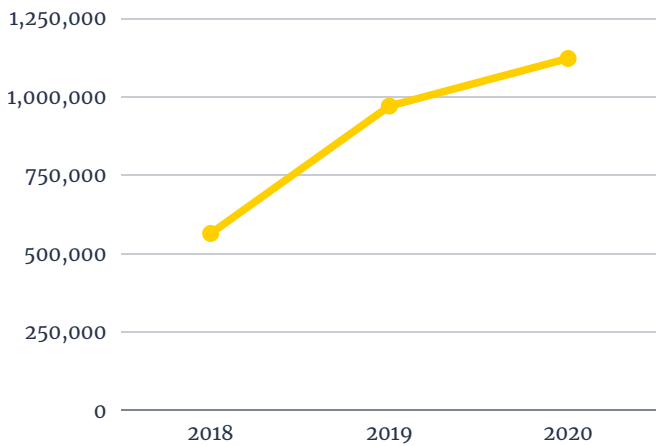
VUSA Hub

VUSA hopes to secure a hub/club house in 2021 - a space where coaches can meet and train, where equipment can be safely stored and should the pandemic continue, a safe space for our children to access an adult who they can trust.

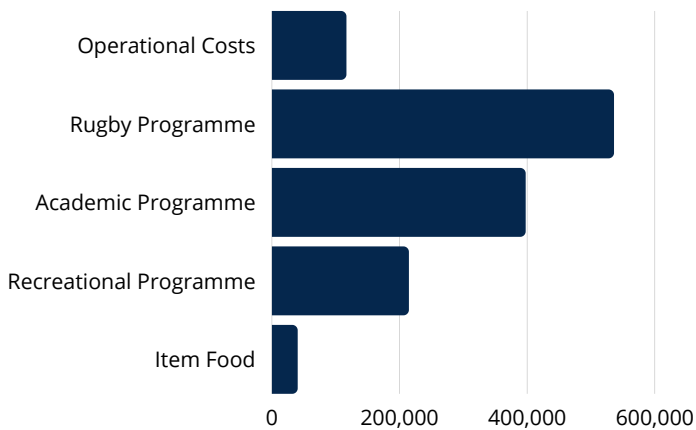
Financial Summary Report

SUMMARY OF AUDITED FINICIALS

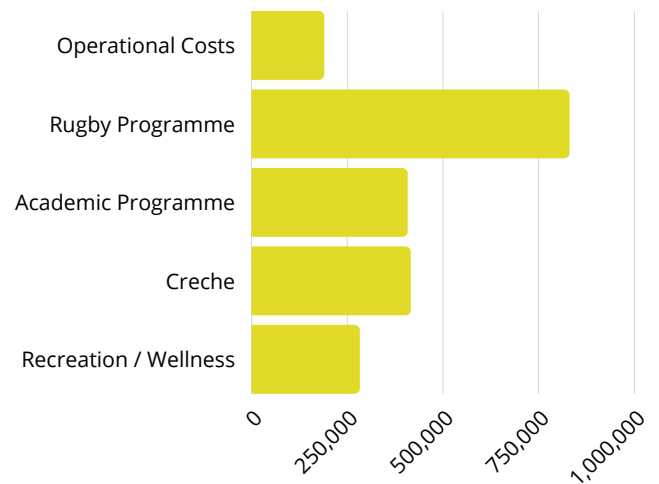
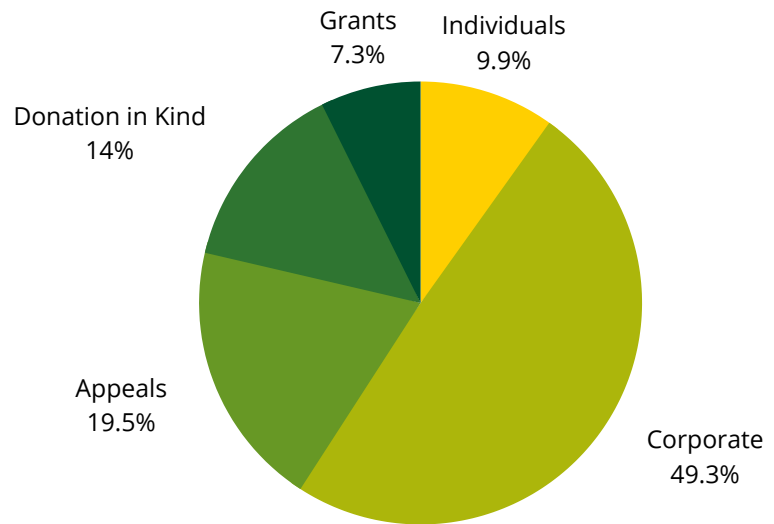
Programme Growth



Programme expenditure Year ended 29 February 2020



Programme Income Year ended 29 February 2020



Please click [HERE](#) to view full audited financials for the year ending 29 February 2020

550

children between the ages of 3 and 14 benefit from this programme

13

staff members employed and upskilled by the VUSA programme

100%

Beneficiaries are black, as defined on the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Scorecard

VUSA'S Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Vusa contributes to the eradication of growing poverty in communities through implementing education & employment opportunities.



As Part of the daily programme, beneficiaries receive a warm daily meal. Over lockdown, this amounted to 500 meals served per day by VUSA



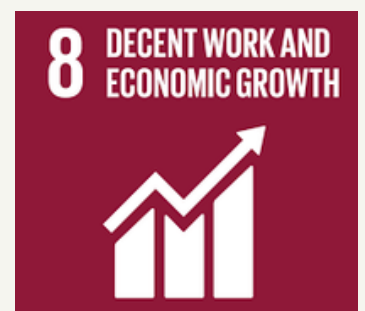
A core focus of the programme is promoting the benefits of exercise, nutrition, education and mental health



Vusa employs residents of the community as mentors and coaches. Vusa offers Maths & English support. Vusa also offers an ECD Programme.



Young females are the most vulnerable members of the community and rugby empowers players both on and off the field.



Vusa aims to employ coaches and volunteers from Langa and surrounding areas. Vusa employs and upskills 13 staff members.



The peer learning program between Bishops and Vusa bridges inequality gaps. Exposure to various recreational activities provides beneficiaries with access to new opportunities



Vusa implements clean-up days as part of their activities and environmental educational programmes.



Vusa's partnerships have allowed VUSA to have an enormous impact beneficiaries and their surrounding communities.

Partners

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD



Thank you

We thank you for your generous support this year.

Covid has once again highlighted the inequality in the South African education system. Should we be able to secure funding, the ECD programme will be a core focus in 2021. Staff development will be another focus.

2020 has also taught us that sport is the motivator for our children to attend the programme and we hope to be in a position to offer our beneficiaries their beloved game of rugby again, with a focus on growing our female attendees.

We look forward to discussing this with you in the near future. In the interim, we thank you for your support.



We thank you for your continued support of our programs.

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