



# Raphael News 2020-1

2019 rushed by with incredible speed and our shaky financial position last year called for a critical and strategic response.

**We had to ask ourselves:** Which of our interventions still make sense? Are we still fulfilling our role as an incubator of ideas and approaches which advocate for the well-being and integration of people who live at the social and economic margins of our city? For us NGOs, this is not just the reason why we exist but also a privilege!

**Reflection:** “South Africa has made huge improvements in getting people to test for HIV in recent years. It has now met the first of the 90-90-90 targets, with 90% of people living with HIV aware of their status in 2018. The country has the world’s largest ART programme, which has undergone further expansion with the implementation of ‘test and treat’ guidelines. South Africa was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to fully approve PrEP, which is now being made available to people at high risk of infection” ([www.avert.org](http://www.avert.org)). The comprehensive National response to HIV and advocacy work and services of numerous NGOs has paid off. Conditions have been changing for the better.

**Conclusion:** Raphael Centre was established in 1999 to provide HIV-services. Due to the huge progress within the HIV field we took the difficult, but necessary decision to end HIV-testing and counselling services at our organisation.

However, social drivers of HIV and sexual and reproductive health remain key elements to secure and strengthen the progress made in South Africa. Therefore, we continue with the project called “Khanya”. Through this project we have reached just under 2000 youth and adolescents to date. With ‘Khanya’ we aim at HIV-prevention through sexual and reproductive health rights education, story-telling and independency building, especially among girls and young women.

**New set-up:** ‘Khanya’ has become one of the activities of ‘Siya Sonke’. ‘Siya Sonke’ was started as a project in 2017 and has grown organically in its activities so that it is the Raphael Centre’s programme today. The way we seek to engage with the local community is based on the principles and philosophy of Asset-based Citizen-driven Development (ABCD). ABCD means to focus on the strengths of individuals and communities and to unlock and unblock a sustainable process of growth from here. Under ‘Siya Sonke’ we facilitate ABCD capacity-building workshops, organisational development (OD) and entrepreneurial development workshops, family mentoring and Child and Youth Development activities. Siya Sonke has engaged 35 families and their social networks of over 1,150 people

**Pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter show our amended Vision, Mission, and objectives as well as our theory behind change.**

**We would like to acknowledge all of our partners and friends who stood strongly by our side during the most difficult 2019. They did despite our fragile and uncertain situation which we experienced last year.** They co-invested through grants, donations, and gave us commissioned work opportunities. People organised events in support of Raphael Centre, waved fees, and offered meeting space at no costs. We received guidance, advice and encouragement. This was a team effort which made it possible that we can look forward to continue our work in 2020.

**We are thrilled to share that the DG Murray Trust partners with us again this year!**

We thank Club Peloton for their final tranche in 2019. We are deeply grateful for the tireless support of our founder Rvd. Denise Herbert, the Emthonjeni Trust, Ikhala Trust, SECMA and St .Cuthbert’s Church. We would like to acknowledge and thank Soroptimists International, Alivia Ismail Charitable Foundation, the Rotary Club Cheltenham, the Grahamstown Rotary Club, the Roundtable Grahamtown, GBS Mutual Bank Grahamstown, Credit Guarantee Insurances, the band ‘Bell Book and Candle’. Heartfelt thanks must also go to Sunflow Events, the Red Café and Fusion Shop in Grahamstown, BIZZ – support of Rhodes University’s Business School, the Rhodes Community Engagement as well as the local The President’s Award team. We sincerely thank the Assumption Development Centre and Childwelfare of Grahamstown, The Family Webber Trust, the Property Shop, IT Solutions, the Legal Resource Centre Grahamstown, and Pick’n Pay for their kind support. Special thanks must also go to David Fuller, family Roberson, Margot Beard, Rhoda Leach and Margie Rogers, Torquil Paterson, Ellanie McLachlan, Jillian Frazer, Sibukhize, Duncan Samson, Liz Campbell, Nina van Schoor, Lizzie Rennie and Jo-Nette Le Kay, Mrs Clarke, Gavin Marshall, Ann Marshall and our anonymous donor!



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**Vision:** People trusting in their abilities, working toward social and economic change in solidarity with others.

**Mission:** To inspire social cohesion and the transformation of household livelihoods through people identifying and utilising their strengths.

**Objective 1:** An increased economic independence and participation of Siya Sonke families through mentoring and entrepreneurial groups.

**Objective 2:** An increased resilience of Siya Sonke families through strength-based capacity building and facilitating Child & Youth Development projects.

**Objective 3:** An increased social cohesion through fostering community groups and projects by Siya Sonke families and their social networks.

**Objective 4:** To build a healthy, effective and sustainable organisation, engaged with continued learning.

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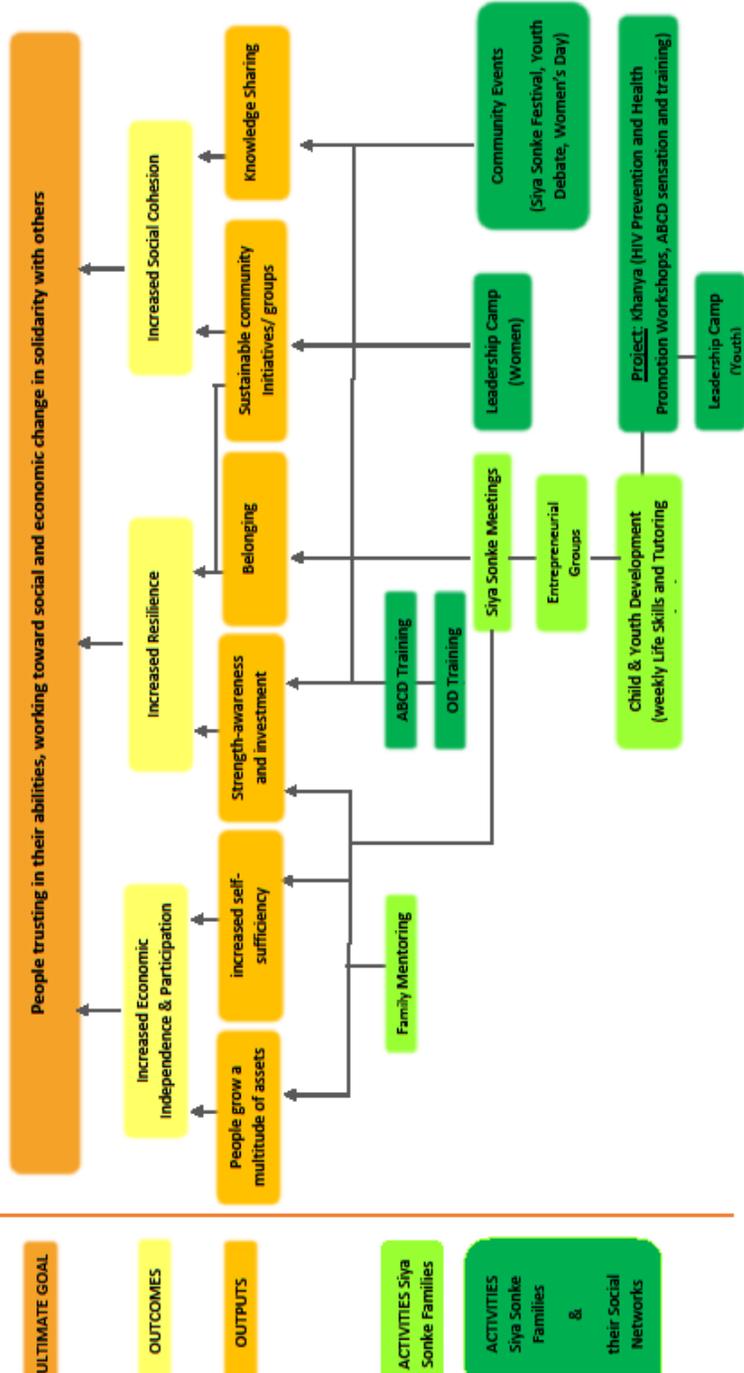
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ABC D: Asset-based Citizen-driven Development  
 OD: Organizational Development Training