



2022
IMPACT REPORT
Bulungula Incubator, NPO

WHERE WE ARE

Located 33 kilometres as the crow flies from Nelson Mandela's birthplace, the Bulungula Incubator (BI) is on the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The area was classified a 'Black Homeland' under Apartheid. As a result, infrastructure development was neglected and communities lacked access to social services. The problems of this neglect continue well into the achievement of democracy. Access to quality education, adequate health care, opportunities for self-development, and employment are of the most challenging in the country.



HOW IT EVOLVED

A catalyst in the creation of vibrant and sustainable rural communities.

The Bulungula Incubator's goal is to sustainably end poverty in a generation while enriching community life and enhancing community cohesiveness. We do this by partnering with our community, government, NGOs and other innovative thinkers to find synergies between the traditional rural African lifestyle and culture, and external technologies and innovations. We always seek to enhance the positive aspects of traditional rural life and/or mitigate the problematic aspects. We further aim to be an agent for change by spreading our vision widely and working to inform government and corporate policy.

Bulungula Incubator is located in one of the most remote and rural parts of the Mbashe municipality, which, according to latest census results, is one of the poorest in South Africa. When the BI founders first came to Nqileni village, where our work

was launched in 2004, there was no road, access to healthcare, functioning schools, electricity, any kind of sanitation, or access to safe drinking water. Only a handful of people have ever succeeded in achieving their Matric certificate. Almost all adults in the village were illiterate. For their livelihoods, the people of the area have been reliant on subsistence farming, government grants, and wage remittances from migrant workers. The health of the population was compromised not only by the inaccessibility to health care, but also by insufficient health knowledge, poor nutrition, poor water quality, HIV and neurocysticercosis. The BI conducted a local survey in which we found that 53% of households had lost at least one child to diarrhoea and 1 in 9 have lost 3 or more, due to a lack of access to safe drinking water and any kind of sanitation.

The area thus epitomises the most acute poverty challenges of the country and the globe.

PRECONCEPTION-TO-CAREER

Our holistic approach to developing vibrant & sustainable rural communities

It became clear that the approach to developing vibrant and sustainable rural communities has to be a holistic one. There is no one single intervention, no 'silver bullet', that can enable a path out of poverty. Over time we have steadily built our interventions to span the spectrum of Preconception-to-Career, with four focus areas: Education, Health & Nutrition, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Vibrant Villages.



Education

Promote early childhood development through a series of programmes that support the education and care of learners throughout their student-lifetime.



Health & Nutrition

Ensure access to quality healthcare for members of the community, and provide nutritious meals and growth monitoring for children to eradicate stunting.



Sustainable Livelihoods

Support and promote the generation of a local economy that uses the valuable assets in the region to create local jobs and opportunities.



Vibrant Villages

Promote growth and vibrancy of youth through sport, art, and cultural programmes.

The BI's 'Preconception-to-Career' strategy has enabled us to scale the depth of our work for our direct beneficiaries, who number over 10,000 people. Our community's children now benefit from home-based care, clinic services, education, vocational training, online learning, access to basic services, youth programmes and income generation for their care givers. **Providing these services is achieved at a cost of R1,500 per person per year.**

Key to our success has been fostering an excellent relationship with government, the traditional leadership and the community as a whole. Community representation on our Board is enshrined in the BI's constitution. **Our work over the past 15 years has been to build innovative strategies, in partnership with our communities, government departments and other organisations, to walk the path together through the last mile.**

OUR PROGRAMME IMPACT



Child immunisations available locally at the Bulungula Health Point

First ever high school in the Xhora Mouth Administrative Area, graduating the most Matrics in a single year in the history of our area



Establishment of vocational education and skills development programme to **achieve zero dropouts**



Capacitate and keep highly skilled entrepreneurs in the community—**reducing the rural to urban migration**

95% of community members are COVID vaccinated



Recognised as a model for successful COVID vaccination campaign in rural area

Continuous COVID support (daily screening, testing, & vaccination) resulting in **few COVID deaths since start of the Pandemic**



Two hours of extra learning in Maths & English per child, per week, to over 1,150 learners grades 1-12, at government schools and the Bulungula College



Bulungula Community Radio **broadcasts to 78 surrounding villages** and remains the most reliable and popular form of communication in our area

130+ community members with HIV supported with ARVs at local pick-up point



450 households visits per month by Nomakhayas (community health workers) to improve access to basic health



100%

of Chronic medication users access prescriptions, and all prescriptions are scanned and entered into the Department of Health national register

6,000 seedlings sold per month at Masilime Ngqo nursery



At our ECD sites...



our health team provides six monthly growth monitoring, development milestone assessments, deworming and vitamin A provision, and an annual vision and hearing screening

each child is fed 2 hot nutritious meals a day and a snack—**over 50,000 hot school meals every year**

OUR EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

At the Bulungula Incubator, we take pride in our work and workplace. Our office is located in Nqilieni Village, where our projects operate, and **100% of our employees work locally in the Xhora Mouth Administrative Area.** Prior to the opening of the Bulungula Lodge in 2004 and the Bulungula Incubator in 2007, only a handful of local job opportunities existed in the community, and most families relied solely on migrant labour as a source of income. Lack of local opportunity has contributed to the egregious 87% unemployment rate in our municipality.

Today, 87% of our employees are from our community, creating 125 permanent job positions— one third youth, and 60% women.

Furthermore, being a community-based organisation has been vital for the success of our programmes. We are embedded within our community, constantly developing our projects on the ground so that they are effective and sustainable. Our workplace environment promotes dignity and respect for one another, and reflects our community value of cohesiveness. **Equality of earnings is important to us. The BI proudly operates with a**



5:1
pay ratio

of senior management salary (programme managers, teachers, nurse, director/founder) to lowest paid salary

OUR BROADER IMPACT

As an "incubator", we share the wealth of knowledge we have collected over the years to support other NPOs, corporate, and government entities in designing and implementing solutions that contribute to development in our community.



Our partnership with the Department of Health (DoH) continues to allow us to expand the capacity of our Health Point. Today, the Bulungula Health Point operates as a fixed outreach point for Nkanya Clinic, providing care to over 450 patients each month.

Additionally, the NPOs [Equality Collective](#) (working with the Amathole District Municipality to fix our water system) and [Viva con Agua](#) (leading water and sanitation projects to 50 schools in our region) partner and work with us to provide further support for our communities.

SUSTAINABLY ENDING POVERTY IN A GENERATION

The many ways your support makes an impact

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.



The needs facing the communities the BI works with can be summarised almost entirely by the SDGs 1-11. The alignment and achievement of these SDGs means that businesses who support the BI will in turn strengthen their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria.

Investing in the BI enables us to continue our work while **upholding good corporate social responsibility.**

The Bulungula Incubator is a Level One Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Contributor. By partnering with us, you can make a meaningful contribution to Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE), and earn B-BBEE scorecard points.

A charitable organisation, Friends of Bulungula Inc., based in the USA supports the work of the BI. Friends of Bulungula Inc. is a registered 501c3 in good standing. EIN: 82-2563578.

As a US tax payer, you are able to make tax-deductible contributions to the Friends of Bulungula Inc. and receive a 501c3 certificate.



Scan QR to donate now

For further information contact:

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