



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2017

WITH  
GRATTITUDE



PROJECT  
PLAYGROUND

## Project Playground Fact Sheet

Launch Date: 01 September 2010

B-BBEE Class: Level 1 B-BBEE Certificate

(135% B- BBEE Procurement Recognition Level)

**Benchmark:** UN Convention on The Rights of the Child

**Regulation:** Watson Inc Audit Firm

**NPO No:** 100-676

**Trust No:** IT57/2011



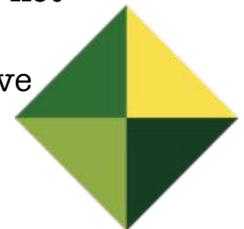
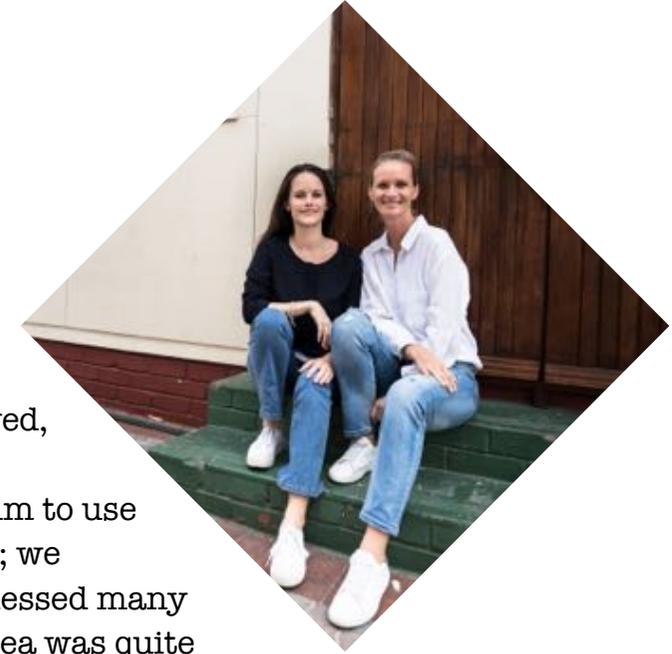
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## Word From Founders

Project Playground's objective is to create a sustainable future by empowering children. One by one.

We are a registered non-profit organization working towards increasing the possibilities in life for children and youth in areas that are systematically socially and economically deprived, by creating a meaningful use of spare time with focus on the individual. Project Playground was created in 2010 with the aim to use structured play as a tool for a child to feel free, safe and happy; we believed that every child deserved a childhood, as we had witnessed many children having to grow up far earlier than they should. Our idea was quite quickly developed into a theory that if a child would come to Project Playground and we were able to gain their trust, we could use the time to teach the children about themselves, life, and rights & wrongs at the same time as they would develop practical and physical life- and social skills. If we managed to keep their trust, they had a chance to develop a different mindset to the one many were exposed to in the township. Because without a healthy mindset, no one is able to sustain a healthy lifestyle. Almost eight years into community work, we are still learning and seeking ways to develop and improve, but have come a long way with many stories of hope, success and perseverance to add to our journey.

Project Playground recognize that the vicious cycle of poverty, abuse, violence and injustice will never be broken unless the level and quality of education and skills development is not improved. And so, Project Playground has grown into a place where we take time to understand the individual so that we can apply interventions of support so as to improve the opportunities for this individual to heal, learn and develop. We are a place of love, patience, care and quality. And we're just getting started!



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## Context & Demographics

Translated from the Afrikaans meaning 'apartness', apartheid was the ideology supported by the National Party (NP) government and was introduced in South Africa in 1948. Apartheid called for the separate development of the different racial groups in South Africa. On paper it appeared to call for equal development and freedom of cultural expression, but the way it was implemented made this impossible. Apartheid-made laws forced the different racial groups to live separately and develop separately, and grossly unequally too. More than this, apartheid was a social system which severely disadvantaged the majority of the population, simply because they did not share the skin color of the rulers. Many were kept just above destitution because they were 'non-white'.

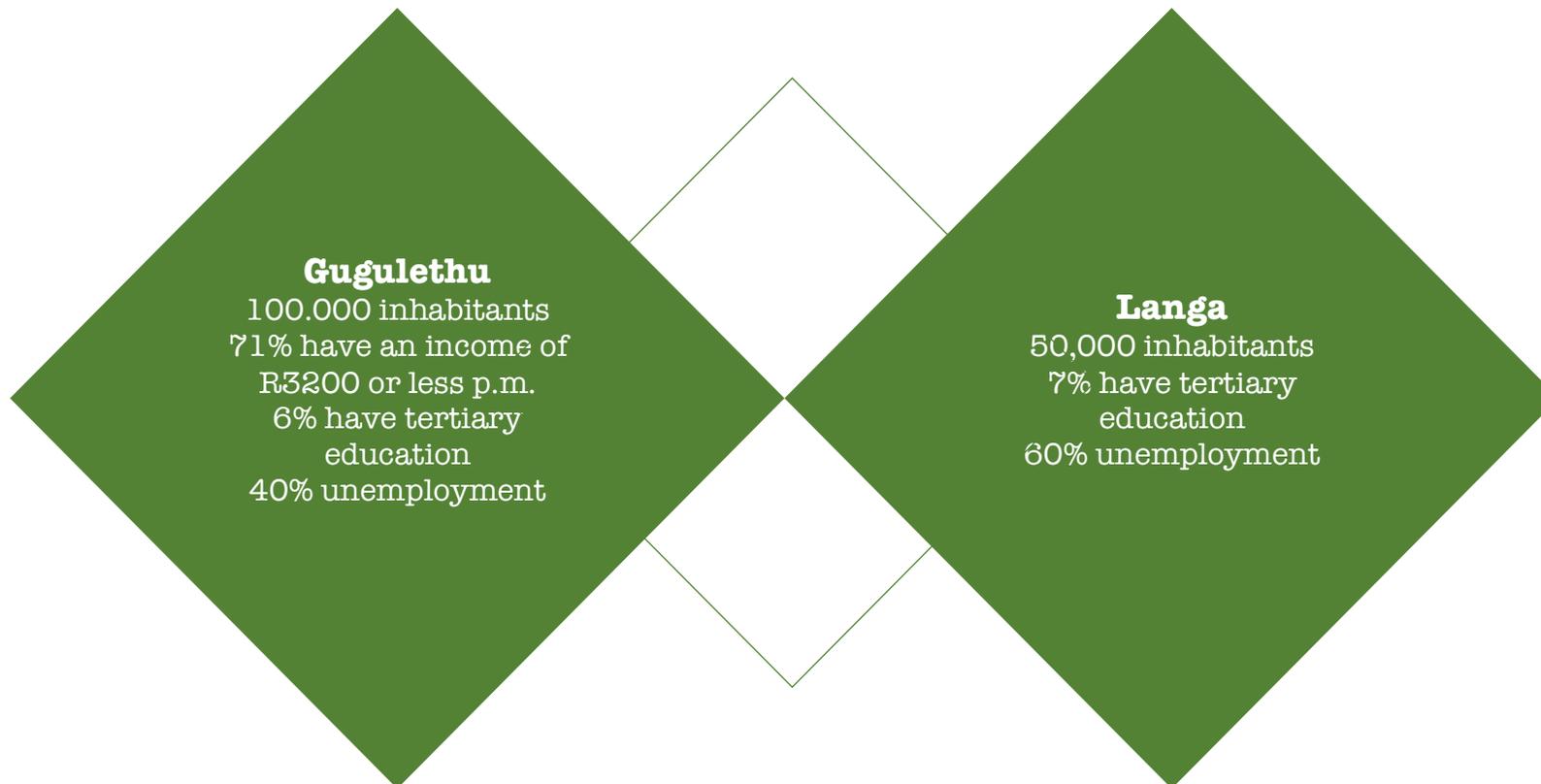
In South Africa, the term “township” refers to the, often underdeveloped, areas that from the mid 1920’s were reserved for the non-white people as part of the Apartheid strategy. Project Playground works exclusively in these areas, with and for the children and youth forced to grow up in the legacy of Apartheid. Our children come from broken families, abusive families, homes without electricity, homes without enough food, homes without adequate shelter. Our children go to schools without proper school books, proper school benches or proper teachers. Sports is often not on the curriculum, and in the rare occasions it happens to be, facilities are often very neglected.



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In an ideal situation, a child should be raised by two loving parents in a stable home where he/she is well taken care of. The child should have enough food to eat and sufficient clothing to wear. His or her parents should be concerned about school matters and encourage the child's progress. This is not true for many of our participants. Most come from single parent homes or are under the guardianship of a relative; very few have both parents in the household. Many of our participants are exposed to violence, both in their own homes, in school and on the streets. Children witness substance abuse, and many fall victim to drugs or alcohol themselves at an early age. A child growing up under these conditions can struggle with many issues such as low self-esteem and not feeling like they belong, resulting in them growing up to be adults who still struggle with these issues, and so the negative pattern is upheld.

Many of our participants are inadequately supervised as they are left on their own during the hours they come home from school. This time leaves room for them to possibly be exposed to certain social ills that could lead them astray. Some of these social ills can include gangsterism, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse to name but a few. These are the hours Project Playground programmes fill in order to create a safe space for children.





# PROJECT PLAYGROUND

2017



## SUMMARY

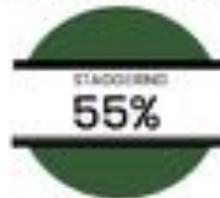
**702 PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED IN 2017, AN INCREASE OF 10% FROM 2016.**

83 STAFF TRAININGS PROVIDED TO OUR  
**15 MALE STAFF**  
**29 FEMALE STAFF**

### LIFETIME AWARD

Project Playground received the Lorna Klein Lifetime Achievement Award for our successful work with girls engaged in Netball.

### NATIONAL YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



- Through WorkShadow Program we contributed to increased knowledge about work environment
- 82% of WorkShadow participants gained work experience through internships
- 88% of interns received permanent employment

### ENSURING PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

## THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS



Increase in Red Cases between April and September due to interventions such as family support, school interventions, individual therapeutic interventions.



100% of participants at Project Playground who seek psychosocial assistance receive some form of intervention.



25% of South African girls will be sexually abused before they turn 18, compared to 17% of boys. It is estimated that 80% of the victims are abused by someone in their family.

### HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS

BOYS 47%



GIRLS 32%



CHILDREN UNDER 8 YEARS 23%



### M&E

### FINDINGS

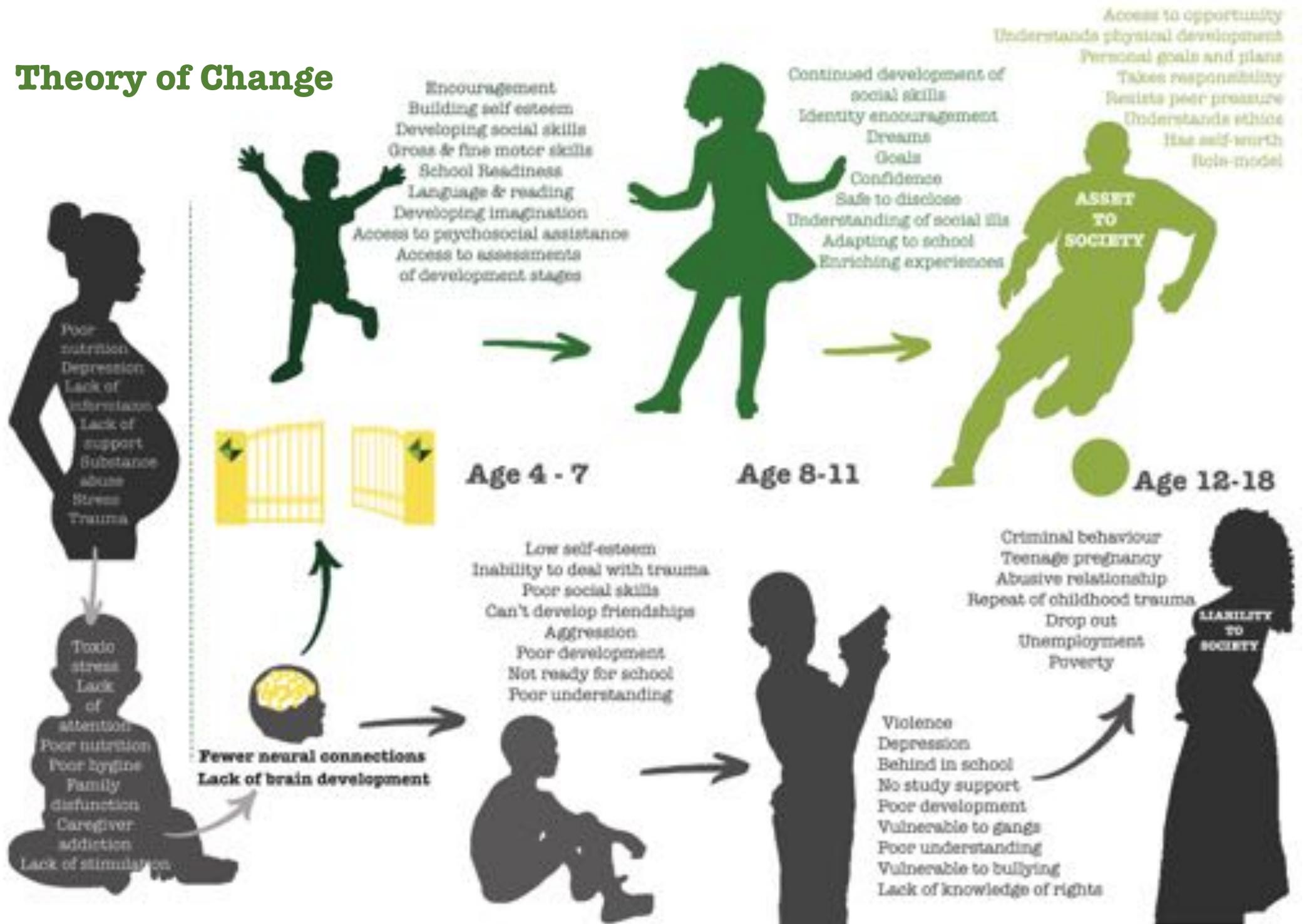


- 50% Improved their social skills
- 60% Kept or improved their school marks
- 80% of children aged 4 and 5 are school ready
- 23% Improved knowledge of social ills



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# Theory of Change



# Long Term Impact

LONG TERM RESULTS	Description	Short to Medium Term Results	PROJECT PLAYGROUND
<p><b>1</b> Improved self-confidence, optimism, and ability to take initiative among children and youth</p>	<p>Children in targeted areas have low levels of self-esteem and self-confidence. Playground (PPG) provides programs and spaces where children can be engaged in creative pursuits aimed at developing life skills and providing opportunities for positive experiences and interpersonal engagement.</p>	<p>Increased recognition for improved social and recreational skills among children and youth</p> <p>Social and recreational skills among children and youth are improved</p> 	
<p><b>2</b> Increased number of youth from PPG communities who are enrolled in tertiary institutions</p>	<p>By providing support to children and youth throughout their school careers (3-18 years), as well as indirectly through better-educated parents to support their learning, PPG addresses barriers to academic progress and success at all levels (from school readiness to support with tertiary studies)</p>	<p>Improved learner retention and pass rates among children and youth</p> <p>Increased literacy and numeracy among children and youth attending PPG programs</p> <p>Increased school-readiness amongst children aged 3 and 6</p> <p>Increased competency and creativity of children</p> <p>Older children are better prepared for examinations</p> <p>Parents are more supportive of their children's education</p> <p>Parents are able to create a structured home environment conducive to their children's learning</p> 	
<p><b>3</b> Increased long-term employment of youth</p> 	<p>Youth in these communities have limited exposure and training to be employed. Coupled with this, the youth have limited confidence, low self-esteem, poor education, and also they do not have the right type of skills and work experience. PPG provides youth with entrepreneurship training skills, work experience and life skills, confidence and support to pursue entrepreneurial endeavours</p>	<p>Increased youth involvement in economic start-ups</p> <p>Increased access to the formal sector market for youth</p> <p>Improved entrepreneurial knowledge and skills</p> <p>Increased knowledge about the labour market and the job-seeking process</p> <p>Youth's experience amongst youth is increased</p>	
<p><b>4</b> The psychosocial status of children and youth is improved</p>	<p>There is a severe shortage of social workers and high levels of child abuse and neglect within targeted communities. As a result of increasing and referrals, children who experience abuse have greater access to social services that improve their safety, health and wellbeing. These outcomes will be supported by community engagement and awareness activities.</p>	<p>Children and youth with poor psychosocial status, are identified, they seeking help, referred and receiving psychosocial support</p> <p>Community has greater awareness of children's rights and child protection issues and how to prevent and report abuse</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Reduction in social problems affecting children and youth in their communities</p>
<p><b>5</b> Reduction in social problems affecting children and youth in their communities</p>	<p>Through PPG's programming, youth and children will have increased knowledge about why their behaviours and consequences associated with crime, drug and alcohol abuse and risky sexual behaviour (social problems). This will reduce the likelihood of youth participating in risky or negative activities</p>	<p>Children and youth have increased knowledge of institutions that offer support</p> <p>Parents advocating for safer communities</p> <p>Increased awareness of social life within communities</p> <p>Youth develop the coping skills and confidence to resist peer pressure</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Increased social integration of mentally and physically disabled individuals</p>
<p><b>6</b> Increased social integration of mentally and physically disabled individuals</p>	<p>There is a lack of social education or social programming for children with disabilities and they tend to be neglected, resulting in poor life chances. Interaction with communities will build people with disabilities to be socially and economically marginalised</p> <p>PPG's community programming and play activities aim to create awareness of the experiences of people with disabilities to lead to greater opportunities for these individuals.</p>	<p>People with Disability are included in communities</p> <p>People with Disability have improved physical capacity</p> <p>Reduced discrimination against people with disabilities</p> 	



32% of children and youth had improved social and recreational skills

38% of children and youth had improved social and recreational skills



Langa

56% of children and youth have kept up or improved their marks



81% of children aged 4 and 5 are ready for school

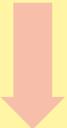


Gugulethu

Play on Wheels



80% improved functional capacity



64% of children and youth have kept up or improved their marks



95% of children aged 4 and 5 are ready for school

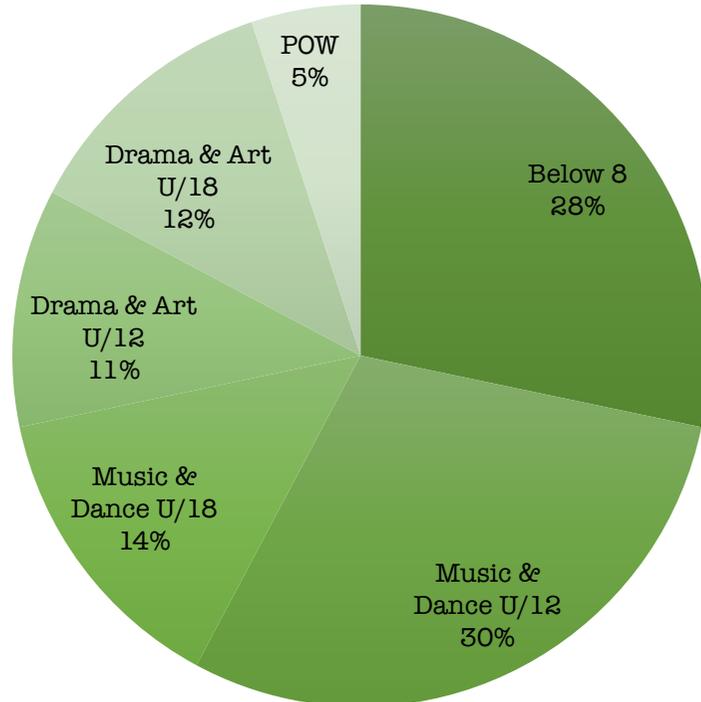
92% improved physical well-being



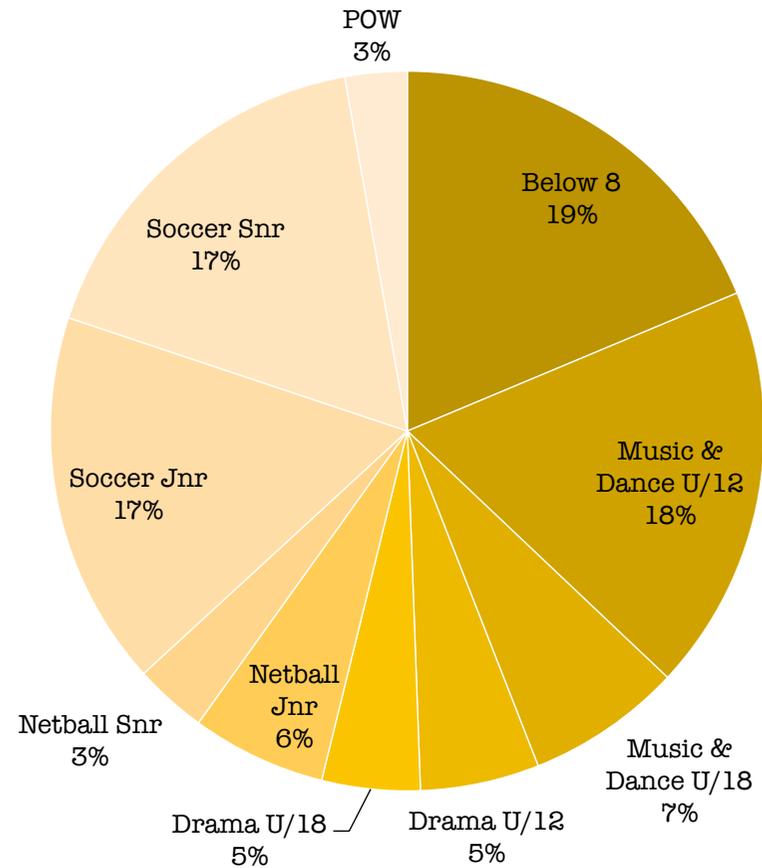
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In 2017 we had **702** participants, 407 in Langa, 207 in Gugulethu and 88 in Samora (all of which were senior football).

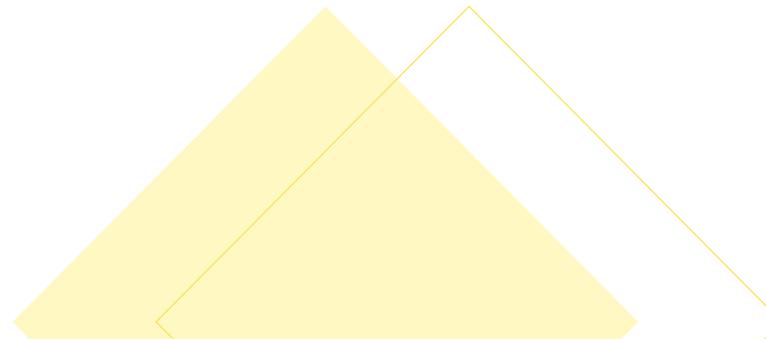
### Gugulethu



### Langa



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## Home Visits

We pride ourselves in building solid and healthy relationships with our participants and their families. Institutions working with children, such as schools and some doing extra-curricular activities all require that the child and parent access its services from the institution's facilities. Parent meetings are held at the school. Activities are also held on the premises. This makes it difficult to fully assess the kind of environment a child comes from. We have had cases where a child seems to be well taken care of as all the necessary boxes are checked but it is when we visit the family at home that certain issues are highlighted.



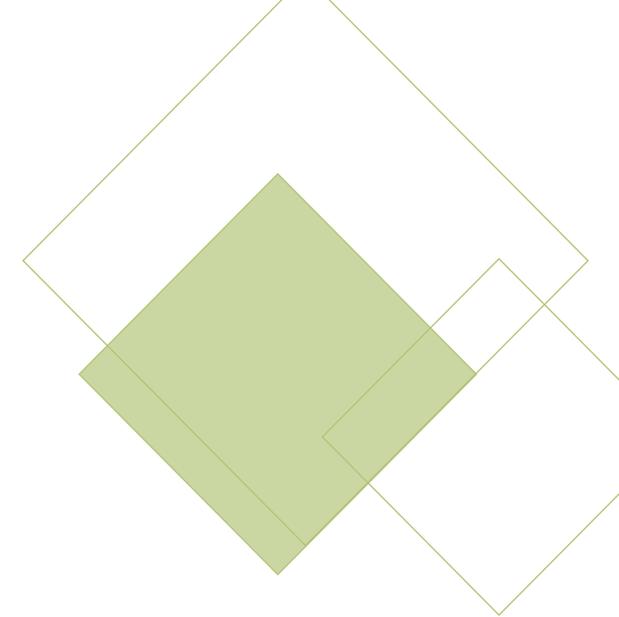
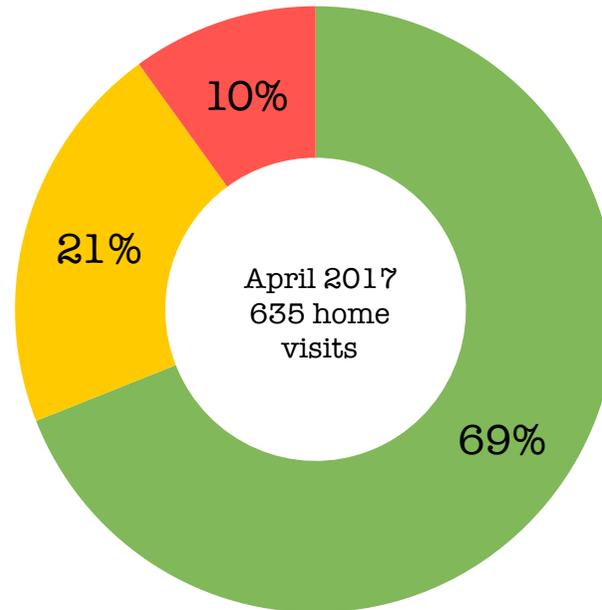
**Nyameka**  
**Social Worker**

We have found that home visits provide a more comprehensive assessment of a child's situation. The importance of having another home visit in the second half of the year helps to assess the changes in participants' situations from the earlier home visit until now. Many of our participants are inadequately supervised as they are left on their own during the hours they come home school before their parents/guardians are home from work. This time leaves room for them to possibly be exposed to certain social ills that could lead them stray. Some of these social ills can include gangsterism, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse to name but a few. These are the hours Project Playground programmes fill in order to create a safe space for children.

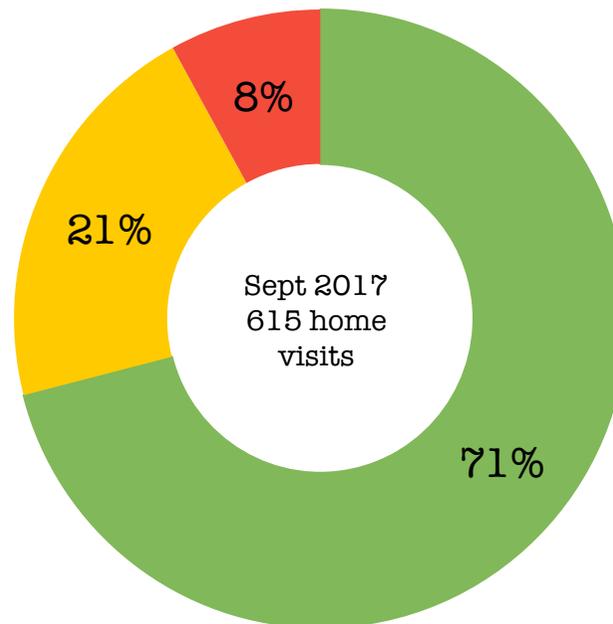


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A yellow household means that there are needs that are not seen to, but they may be deemed minor, such as; parents going through a divorce, minor hygienic issues, overcrowding, parent lack sufficient parental skills. Intervention is needed but on a smaller scale.



A red household means there is an urgent need for intervention, and possibly the need to involve the police or social development. The child is neglected, major hygienic issues, no responsible adult, the house is an illegal bar, there are signs of abuse, domestic violence or substance



A green household means that the child is provided with their basic needs such as shelter, adequate food, and at least one responsible adult in the home



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Disclaimer: The reason for some Home Visits not being able to be finalized is due to reluctance from parents to allow us in, the family has moved, or the family moved without informing us of their new address.

## Changing Worlds

- The case of a POW participant whose family had been neglecting care for many years has improved significantly after several interventions throughout this year. The client has moved from being a red case to a yellow case.
- A 12 year old reported his mother as being physically and financially abusive to him. We intervened in the case and with the assistance of the Department of Social Development, the social grant is being transferred to the child's grandmother under the supervision of DSD and PPG.
- A 12 year old with a habit of shoplifting from the local supermarket was helped through the intervention of roping in significant others in her life such as her mother, PPG facilitator and the school. There have not been any incidents reported in the past few months.
- A 16 year old who was feeling uncomfortable about sexual advances made towards her by an older man, reported the matter on her own free will as she felt comfortable enough to do so at PPG. Several interventions took place to ensure her safety from what can only be described as the start of "grooming" by a predator.



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# Finances

## Project Playground Trust

(Registration number: IT57/2011)

Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2018

### Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2018

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2018	2017
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	2	185,617	72,892
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	3	5,965	60,835
Cash and cash equivalents	4	7,726,369	6,980,295
		<b>7,732,334</b>	<b>7,041,130</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>7,917,951</b>	<b>7,114,022</b>
<b>Funds and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus		3,781,477	3,169,502
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Other current liabilities	5	4,136,474	3,914,520
<b>Total Funds and Liabilities</b>		<b>7,917,951</b>	<b>7,114,022</b>



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## Words From The Participants

If you face any problems, are unsafe, or not taken care of at home, do you feel that PPG can help you? If not, tell us why.

“Yes, we get to talk to a social worker at PPG to tell them any personal things.”

“Yes, because PPG is the place where you talk about your problems”

“Yes, because they do home visits to check on us.”

“I feel that they can help you, because they are your parents too.”



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If you face any problems, are unsafe, or not taken care of at home, do you feel that PPG can help you?

“Yes, because there's always sis Nyameka and other teachers to help.”

“Yes, especially Ms Nyameka, she helps me.”

“Yes, because it is a better place to tell your problems, so that you can feel free.”



“PPG is the place where you change your live and enjoy yourself.”

“PPG is a good place that keeps you from bad things.”

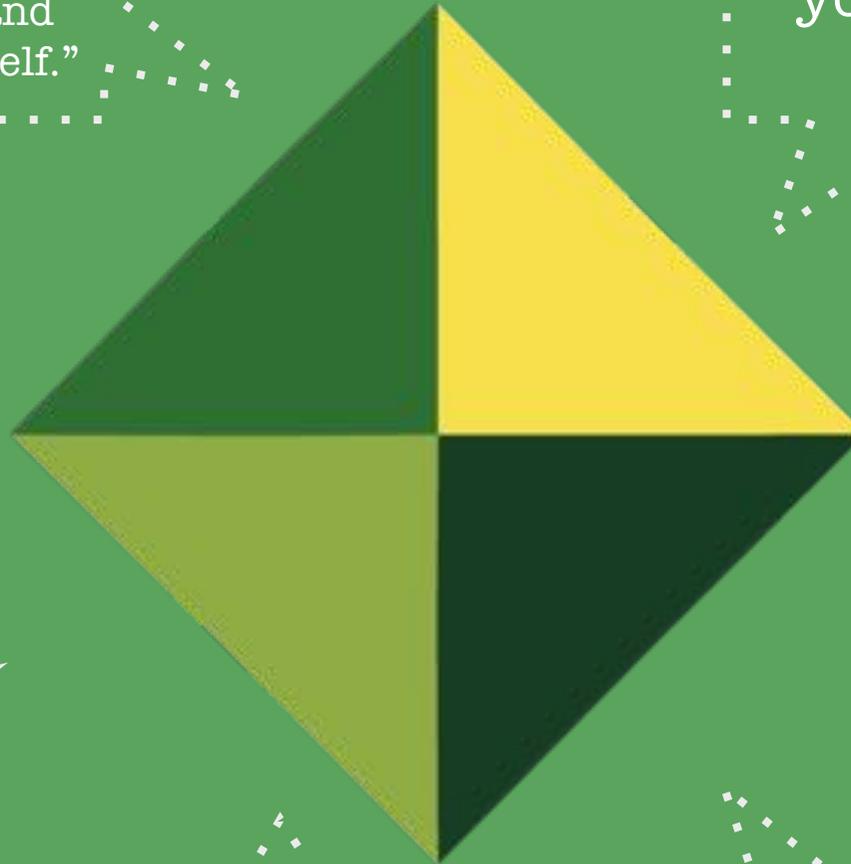
“PPG is where joy is.”

“PPG made me a very different person, when I'm inside PPG and when I'm outside PPG.”

“We love PPG, and we will keep going.”

“Great facilitators, enjoyed every year being here and I thank every person at PPG.”

“It is a great place to be at, and I feel safe and comfortable at PPG.”

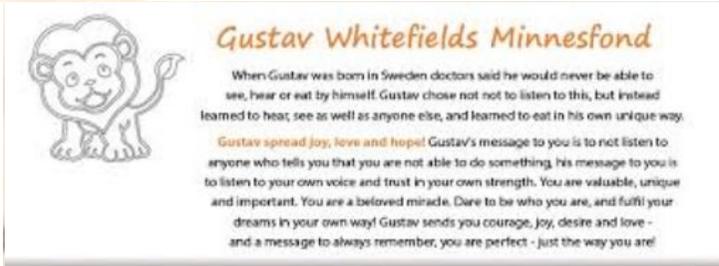


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# With Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who supported us this year, allowing us to create magic, change destinies and provide so many children with a childhood.

Small steps, significant change.



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