

NEWSLETTER



About the Newsletter

In this edition, we celebrate inspiring stories of resilience, collaboration, and community-driven transformation. From the incredible journey of Titus Community Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre, now a fully registered facility empowering children and families, to insights into how Themba lethu Development's governance fosters accountability, transparency, and meaningful engagement, we highlight the power of collective effort. Dive into these stories and more as we continue our mission to empower communities, drive sustainable change, and shape a brighter future for all.



Empowering Change at Titus Community ECD Centre

Through determination and support from Themba lethu Development, Titus Community ECD Centre transformed into a fully registered facility, unlocking sustainable funding and revitalizing its community garden. This journey showcases the power of resilience, collaboration, and hope in shaping brighter futures.



Governance That Drives Community Empowerment

Themba lethu Development's governance emphasizes accountability, transparency, and collaboration, guided by the expertise of our Board and stakeholder engagement. By prioritizing community voices, we shape impactful, sustainable solutions that foster trust and drive meaningful change. Together, we are building resilient futures and empowering communities to thrive.



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REFLECTING ON 2024'S IMPACT

As we wrap up this year, we are thrilled to share some remarkable milestones from Thembaletu Development's journey. This final edition of 2024 captures the heart of our work—empowering communities through education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience.

In recent months, we've seen the transformative power of reading clubs, sports coaching, and community-led waste management initiatives, which have fostered a greater sense of unity and purpose. Through it all, we faced challenges—resource limits, logistical obstacles—but our commitment held strong. Notably, we've introduced essential skills training for health workers, elevating healthcare access, and expanded micro-enterprise development to empower participants in building sustainable livelihoods.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to driving positive change, fostering growth, and building a sustainable impact. We want to thank each of you for your continued support and collaboration in our mission. Here's to a brighter, stronger tomorrow for all.



SEF participants engaged in FNB financial literacy training



Security Training completion certificates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Implementation of Social Employment Fund Programme

Since being appointed to implement SEF Round 3, Thembaletu Development has been actively advancing its initiatives across Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Gauteng. With a reduced budget and job allocation from 3,000 to 2,500 due to national budget constraints, the organization strategically exiting 500 participants who had served more than 160 days in SEF rounds 1 and 2. As of July 2024, onboarding and contract signing were the primary focus, while participants began work activities across the provinces. This effective management of resources has allowed Thembaletu Development to maintain a robust support system for participants while navigating fiscal challenges.

The SEF programme's core initiatives—education support, food security, health care, support waste management, and micro-enterprise—continued to empower local communities by providing sustainable resources, building skills, and supporting vulnerable populations.

These past few months, partnerships with GreenShoots and Help2Read strengthened educational support, with specific efforts in mathematics and literacy, reaching diverse age groups and promoting lifelong learning. Food gardens and feeding schemes bolstered community nutrition, directly benefiting over 1,500 families. Micro-enterprise efforts promoted entrepreneurial skills among participants, encouraging innovation and self-sufficiency. Challenges, such as weather impacting food gardens, underscored the importance of adapting to environmental and economic conditions. The implementation of drought-resistant crops is one strategy being explored to enhance resilience. Looking ahead, Thembaletu Development plans to consolidate its social impact by fostering sustainable practices and expanding outreach through its local partners, aiming to engage more communities in future initiatives.



A participant applies bio pest control spray during agricultural training in T-SHAD



Participants celebrate a successful river clean-up in Alex with collected waste.



Participants engage in theory lessons during agricultural training at Ecaleni.

MILESTONES



Nondumo Mbuntshu repairs a phone as part of her cell phone repair business.

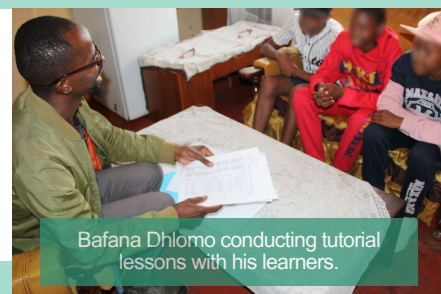
PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

Onboarded more than 2,500 participants engaging in various work-for-common-good activities, contributing positively to community development, including health and care support, education support, food security and nutrition, micro-enterprise development, and environmental projects.



EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Through partnerships, provided tutoring and reading programmes that engaged more than 270,000 learners across over 140 schools, facilitated by more than 700 participants, enhancing literacy rates significantly in the targeted areas.



Bafana Dhlomo conducting tutorial lessons with his learners.



Participants at T-SHAD engage in practical agricultural lessons.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Established and maintained over 100 food gardens across the three provinces, directly impacting school feeding programmes, ECD centers, and community kitchens, helping to alleviate local food insecurity.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Ensured safe transit for children to and from schools through the Walking Bus initiative, benefiting over 2,442 children and ensuring increased school attendance while fostering community cohesion.



Participants proudly display their Security Training completion certificates.



An FNB representative conducts a financial literacy session.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

A total of 145 participants have been trained in different areas of focus including micro-enterprise development, education support, early childhood development and health care, 42 of which received their Grade E,D & C Security training.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND IMPACTS

Over the past five months, 292 participants were supported and engaged in various entrepreneurship activities. During this period, entrepreneurs completed 3,623 piece jobs, generating an impressive income of R1,437,482 through their diverse work activities.



WASTE MANAGEMENT



A cleaning campaign underway at the Alexandra river, supported by various organizations.



Thembaletu Development's Waste Management initiative is instrumental in promoting a cleaner, more sustainable environment in rural and peri-urban communities. This programme employs SEF participants in recycling cleaning efforts across schools, ECD centers, and public spaces, aiming to foster a culture of environmental stewardship. Key activities this quarter included recycling of waste for income generation, organized clean-up drives that engaged over 300 community volunteers, awareness workshops on waste reduction. Community members expressed positive feedback, noting cleaner public spaces and increased awareness about waste disposal.

To build on these achievements, Thembaletu Development plans to expand on its waste segregation practices and promoting a sustainable approach to waste management. Challenges such as a lack of resources for advanced waste processing were identified, highlighting a need for further partnerships with recycling firms. Looking forward, Thembaletu Development aims to secure additional resources for waste management tools and collaborate with local authorities to enhance waste management infrastructure, including the establishment of community recycling points.



MICRO-ENTERPRISE



Nondumo Mbuntshu repairs a phone as part of her cell phone repair business.



Mooketsi receives her nail and beauty kit for her "New Venture Creation."



Mooketsi provides a relaxing massage treatment at her Nail and Beauty shop.



David adds the final touches to a client's car after a successful spray painting.

The micro-enterprise theme within SEF has shown promising results by equipping participants with entrepreneurial skills. This quarter, Thembalethu Development collaborated with local small, medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to conduct training sessions, focusing on fundamental business skills, market analysis, and financial literacy. Participants engaged in workshops that emphasized identifying local market needs and creating sustainable, small-scale enterprises.

The impact is reflected in the development of small-scale projects that enable participants to generate supplemental income, from craft making to small agricultural ventures, with some participants reporting up to a 30% increase in household income. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing confidence in exploring new income-generating avenues. Moving forward, Thembalethu Development aims to build an incubation hub where aspiring entrepreneurs can refine their business ideas with continued guidance and support, despite limited resources. The organization remains committed to fostering sustainable entrepreneurship and economic resilience among SEF participants.



Participants explore the craft of bead making.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Participants in Ecaleni engage in practical lessons during agricultural training.



Addressing food insecurity in rural areas remains a core focus of Themba lethu Development's SEF initiative. In partnership with local schools, ECD centers, and community groups, Themba lethu Development established and maintained food gardens in 16 locations across the three provinces. These gardens produce a variety of crops, providing fresh vegetables and herbs to community feeding schemes, ECD centers, and soup kitchens. During this quarter of produce, 49 soup kitchens and over 50,000 people benefited, reducing dependency on external food sources. Additionally, nutrition workshops were conducted, educating participants about balanced diets and healthy eating practices.

Locality partners, such as Daruul Uloom School and Knoflokskraal in the Western Cape province, play a critical role in sustaining these gardens. Themba lethu Development also provided hands-on training in sustainable farming techniques, equipping participants with the knowledge to replicate these practices at home. However, challenges such as adverse weather conditions impacted crop yields in some areas, necessitating alternative strategies like shade netting for climate resilience. Moving forward, Themba lethu Development is committed to expanding food garden initiatives and supporting small-scale farmers, ensuring long-term food security and improved nutrition for vulnerable communities. The focus will also include establishing partnerships with local markets to create reliable outlets for selling surplus produce, thus enhancing food access and economic opportunities for participants.



EDUCATION SUPPORT



Thembaletu team on a site visit to an ECD center.

Thembaletu Development's education support efforts are structured to address critical gaps in literacy, numeracy, and overall educational engagement. Through partnerships with GreenShoots and Help2Read in the Western Cape province, the organization provides robust solutions for enhancing learners' math and reading skills. GreenShoots' Integrated Maths Programme strengthens foundational math abilities, making abstract concepts more accessible to young students, while Help2Read's Reading Clubs encourage a culture of literacy by offering a supportive space for reading practice and development. This dual approach to math and literacy ensures that learners are not only prepared for academic progress but are also equipped with essential skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Beyond academics, Thembaletu Development enriches the school environment by placing more than 300 teacher and school assistants in classrooms, creating a better student-teacher ratio and enabling more personalized instruction. They also support sports coaching, which promotes students' physical well-being and builds essential life skills such as teamwork and discipline. Initiatives like the 'walking bus' program provide students with safe, reliable routes to school, addressing attendance issues tied to unsafe commuting conditions. Additionally, food gardens and feeding schemes contribute to students' nutrition, ensuring they have the physical energy and health needed for effective learning. These combined efforts not only impact students but also empower teachers and schools, creating a more resilient educational ecosystem.



A child explores learning resources in the library during education support.



HEALTH CARE SUPPORT



Participants take part in the HIV/AIDS health drive in Alex.



In the healthcare sector, Themba lethu Development plays a pivotal role in expanding access to essential services and supporting health facilities with much-needed personnel. Through the Social Employment Fund (SEF) programme, Themba lethu Development has placed 181 participants in health facilities, where they perform various duties that supplement existing healthcare resources. This placement strategy helps to bridge critical gaps in patient care, especially in rural and underserved areas where healthcare providers are often stretched thin. The presence of these trained participants alleviates workloads for existing staff, enabling a more comprehensive and responsive approach to community health.

Moreover, Themba lethu Development addresses community health needs directly by conducting 1,226 home visits for elderly and vulnerable individuals who face mobility challenges. Through these visits, the organization provides healthcare services and essential support to those unable to access formal healthcare settings, ensuring that no community member is left unattended. Nurse assistants further reinforce this outreach by delivering basic medical support and caregiving services, particularly for elderly populations. By integrating facility support with home-based care and community health assistance, Themba lethu's healthcare initiatives promote a healthier community infrastructure and foster greater well-being among South Africa's most vulnerable populations.

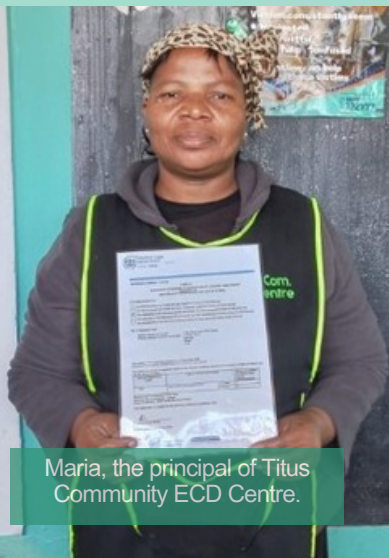


COMMUNITY IMPACT



THE JOURNEY OF TITUS COMMUNITY ECD CENTRE

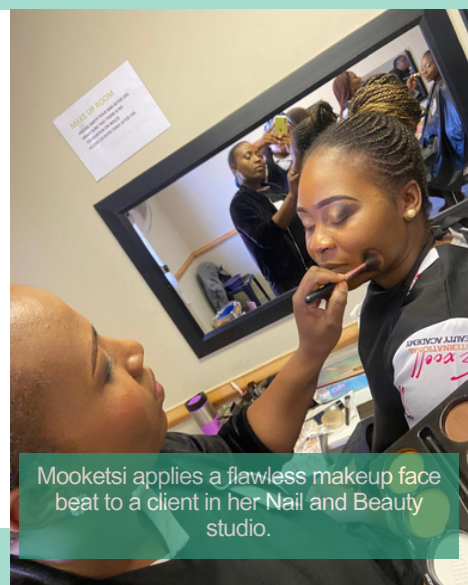
Thembaletu Development celebrates the success of Titus Community ECD Centre, which, under the leadership of Maria, a principal in Titus Community ECD Centre in the Western Cape province, transformed from a center facing compliance challenges to a fully registered facility. Through determination and collaboration, including support from our Social Employment Fund (SEF), the center upgraded its infrastructure, met national standards, and revived its community garden. This achievement secures ongoing funding from the Department of Basic Education, ensuring sustainable growth and highlighting the power of partnership and resilience in empowering ECD centers to make a lasting impact.



Maria, the principal of Titus Community ECD Centre.

MOOKETSI'S JOURNEY TO BEAUTY THERAPY SUCCESS

Thembaletu Development's Micro Enterprise Development programme, through the Social Employment Fund (SEF), helps individuals like Mooketsi Mabuye, in Tembisa Gauteng province, achieve lasting change. Starting with a stipend, Mooketsi saved to become a beauty therapist, completing her training at Excell International Beauty Academy. She now runs a successful beauty therapy business and plans to open her own salon, creating job opportunities in her community. Mooketsi's journey highlights SEF's role in empowering individuals, fostering self-sufficiency, and driving community development.



Mooketsi applies a flawless makeup face beat to a client in her Nail and Beauty studio.

NONDUMO'S PATH TO EMPOWERMENT

Nondumo Mbuntshu, from Tembisa, overcame financial and training barriers to launch her cell phone repair business, Dudu G Repairs and Tech Solution. Through the Social Employment Fund (SEF), she received a stipend to buy equipment and participated in New Venture Creation training, gaining skills in financial management, pricing, and marketing. Today, her thriving business serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating how SEF's support can empower individuals to succeed and inspire others in their communities.



Nondumo Mbuntshu repairs a phone as part of her cell phone repair business.

SERVICES SETA



The Services SETA Learnership Programme has officially commenced, marking a significant step in skills development and entrepreneurship training. Initially designed to offer the General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (SAQA ID 71751, LP 64309), the programme was later updated to the National Certificate: New Venture Creation (SMME). This qualification is registered at NQF Level 2 and carries 38 credits.

A total of 397 learners have been enrolled across 5 provinces to participate in this initiative.

Distribution of Learners by Province

PROVINCE	LOCALITY	NUMBER OF LEARNERS
Limpopo	Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality	99 Learners
Mpumalanga	Thaba Chweu Municipality	100 Learners
North-West	Moses Kotane Municipality	95 Learners
Western Cape	Theewaterskloof Municipality	53 Learners
Northern Cape	Emthanjeni Municipality	50 Learners

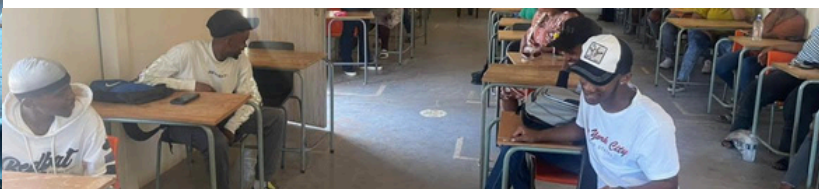


Participants in Northern Cape attend a class for the Services SETA learnership.



Participants in Limpopo attend a class for the Services SETA learnership.

This programme aims to equip participants with entrepreneurial skills to foster economic growth and promote the development of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in their respective communities.



GOVERNANCE

Themba lethu Development is deeply committed to upholding governance practices that prioritize accountability, transparency, and meaningful engagement. Our Board plays a central role in shaping the organization's strategic direction, ensuring that our initiatives remain aligned with the evolving needs of the communities we serve. Through ongoing deliberations and the diverse expertise of our Board members, we continue to refine our approach to community empowerment, driving impactful and sustainable change.



TD board members engage with participants during a site visit.

Central to our governance philosophy is the emphasis on collaboration and open dialogue. By fostering engagement with stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries, we gain valuable insights that inform our decision-making processes and programmatic strategies. This inclusive approach ensures that the voices of the communities we serve are not only heard but actively shape the solutions we implement.



TD staff captured during a site visit.

We recognize that governance extends beyond policy and oversight—it is about fostering trust, accountability, and a shared commitment to transformation. Our efforts to assess impact, plan future initiatives, and engage directly with our stakeholders reflect our dedication to creating positive and lasting outcomes.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our Board members, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and collaborative spirit. Together, we are building a foundation for a resilient future, empowering communities to thrive and achieve their full potential.



TD staff and stakeholders engage in discussions.



CELEBRATING COLLABORATION AND GRATITUDE



A Year of Empowerment and Growth



As we close 2024, Themba lethu Development extends heartfelt gratitude to our partners who have made this year remarkable. The steadfast support of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Social Employment Fund (SEF), our partners since the start of the year, has been instrumental in driving transformative community initiatives. Together, we've strengthened our reach, empowering individuals and uplifting communities across South Africa.

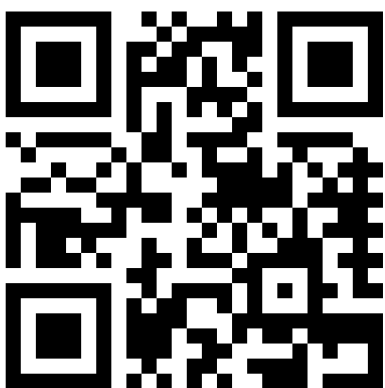
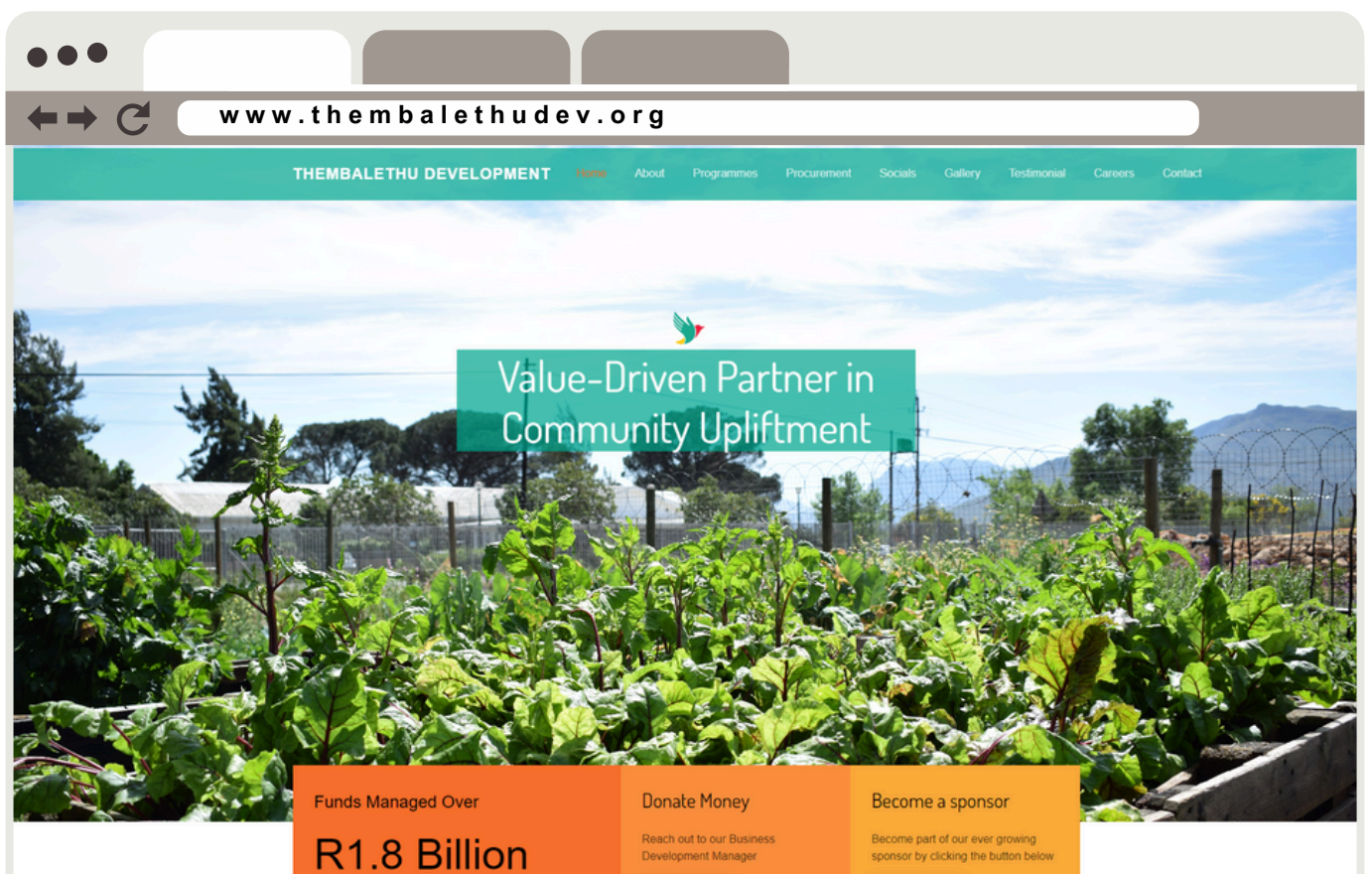
This year, we also had the privilege of partnering with Services SETA, launching learnerships for 400 learners in Limpopo, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, and North West. Beginning in December 2024, this 12-month programme reflects our shared commitment to equipping youth with the skills and opportunities to build brighter futures.

We deeply value the contributions of all our partners, supporters, and volunteers, whose dedication has been the cornerstone of our success. Together, we've demonstrated the power of collaboration in creating sustainable change. As we reflect on this year's achievements, we are inspired to continue this journey, knowing that with shared vision and commitment, we can shape a more resilient and empowered society.

Here's to another year of impactful partnerships and transformative growth!

Thank You

To our readers, partners, donors, and supporters – thank you for walking this journey with us. Your continued encouragement and contributions empower communities and drive meaningful change.



Stay connected for more updates and inspiring stories as we continue to transform lives!



Themba lethu Development NPC



Themba lethu Development



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