



Annual Report

2024/25

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About Mikhulu Trust

Our Vision

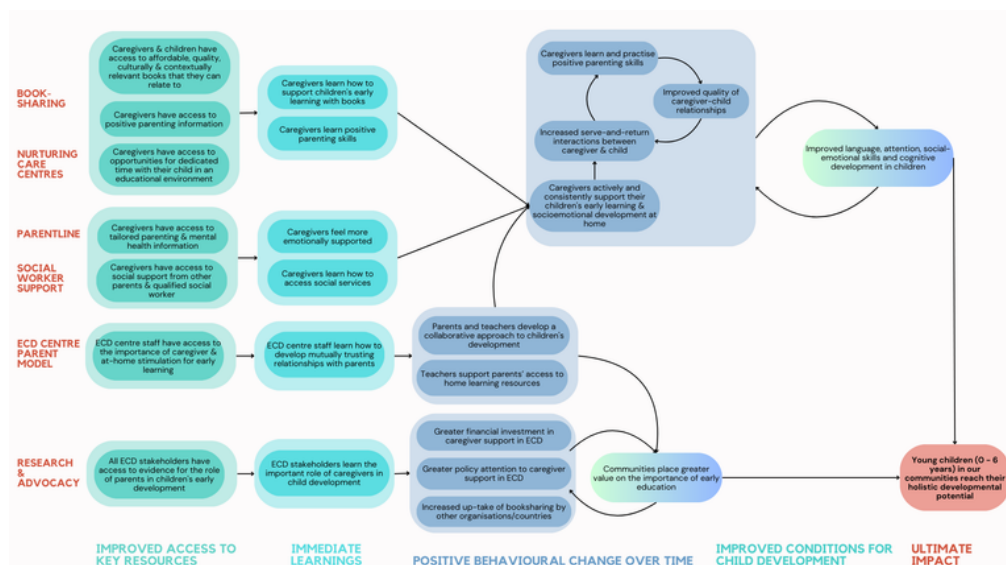
All parents are supported to develop positive, nurturing and stimulating relationships with their young children.

Our Mission

We are building an ecosystem that supports parents to develop nurturing and stimulating relationships with their young children by:

- Developing and testing programmes and services that support a variety of parents' needs,
- Building capacity with government and other social services to support parents,
- Producing quality resources,
- Advocating for the elevation of the role of the parent, and
- Driving and supporting research.

Theory of Change



Our vision of a world in which all parents are supported to build positive, nurturing, and stimulating relationships with their young children is brought to life through a coherent and evidence-informed theory of change. This theory recognises that strengthening early relationships requires both direct support to families and broader shifts in the systems that shape their lives. Through our core work—capacity building, dialogic book-sharing using culturally relevant wordless picture books, research, and advocacy—we enable immediate learning and behaviour change among parents and caregivers, while also improving access to key resources and support. These interconnected pathways lead to stronger parent-child relationships and, over time, to improved cognitive and socio-emotional development for young children. In this way, our mission is not a set of isolated activities, but a deliberate, layered approach that connects practice, evidence, and systems change to achieve lasting impact.



The Year in Numbers

93

parents accessed the NFC
between March 2024 &
February 2025

606

families reached
through our SEF partners

17

CBO partners
implementing book-
sharing

1440

families reached by our
community based organisation
partners

Number of individuals using our social work services:

30 casework **99** group work

350

community health
workers trained across
the Western Cape

9422

families reached across the
Western Cape by CHWs

1800

books donated to other
organisations & CBOs

21 400

books sold

18

librarians trained across
the Western Cape

Acting CEO Report

Financial Year 2024–2025



The 2024–2025 financial year was marked by both significant opportunity and unexpected disruption.

At the start of the year, our CEO commenced maternity leave and welcomed a healthy baby girl. This was an important and joyful milestone for her family and for our organisation. I was honoured to serve as Acting CEO during this period. The strength of our leadership team, the clarity of our strategy, and the discipline of our operational systems ensured stability and continuity throughout the transition.

A major focus of the year was our collaboration with Nal'ibali on the Siyafunda Community Learning Hubs pilot in KwaZulu-Natal. Mikhulu Trust was responsible for developing and adapting book-sharing materials for use in both group-based caregiver sessions and structured home visits. We also developed audio-visual materials to strengthen implementation quality across settings.

This initiative represented an important step in testing how dialogic book-sharing can operate within an integrated, community-based model. The planned next phase — extending into work with ECD centre teachers — would have allowed for a more comprehensive examination of how book-sharing, alongside interventions by Nal'ibali, Sunshine, and McMillan Education, could collectively influence early learning outcomes in under-resourced communities.

In early 2025, we were informed that USAID funding for the project had been terminated with immediate effect. All project activities ceased. This was a significant setback. Beyond the operational impact, the loss curtailed an opportunity to generate rigorous, contextualised research that would have contributed meaningfully to understanding the combined effect of parenting, literacy, and community interventions. The need for such evidence remains pressing.

Despite this disruption, the year also brought important recognition of our work. We were invited to participate in the launch of the Brookings Institution Centre for Universal Education's report, *Six Global Lessons on How Family, School, and Community Engagement Can Transform Education*. Our contribution was grounded in research conducted with ten ECD centres in Khayelitsha and affirmed the centrality of family engagement in improving early learning outcomes.

Regionally, we collaborated with Clowns Without Borders and Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) on a research initiative in Harare, Zimbabwe. Together we co-developed the Tabudirira Parenting Programme, integrating parenting support and book-sharing to strengthen school readiness in primary schools offering pre-school programmes. This partnership reflects our ongoing commitment to co-creation and contextual adaptation across the region.

Capacity strengthening remained central to our work. We trained and supported facilitators from organisations working with parents across the Western Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Eastern Cape. This included community health workers operating in rural and peri-urban contexts. Strengthening frontline capacity remains one of the most sustainable pathways to impact.

We also continued our contribution to the Department of Social Development's three-year Family Strengthening Programme pilot. In three communities, we strengthened the basket of services available to families by integrating psycho-social support, structured book-sharing, and a nurturing family centre model. The community of practice established through this initiative has fostered accountability, peer learning, and stronger inter-organisational relationships. Early learning from this pilot underscores the value of coordinated, multi-layered support for families.

The cancellation of USAID funding was a sobering reminder of the volatility of the current funding environment. We remain mindful that many organisations faced far more severe consequences. In our case, the funding loss did not compromise beneficiary safety nor threaten organisational survival. For this, we are deeply grateful.

This year required steadiness. It reaffirmed the importance of institutional resilience, diversified partnerships, and evidence-informed practice. It also reinforced our conviction that strengthening early relationships — between caregivers and children, and between families and systems — is foundational to long-term developmental outcomes.

We move forward with clarity of purpose, disciplined focus, and continued commitment to the communities we serve.

Karen Ross, Acting CEO



Chairperson Report

Year Under Review from the Chairman's Desk Financial Year 2024–2025

This year under review has been very significant in many areas and also in many forms in the achievement of the Mikhulu Child Development Trust organization. It is a year of another re-written history when the African National Congress (ANC) party lost the majority share in the national assembly election in South Africa, with 40.2 percent. This was the lowest share of votes recorded since the introduction of the country's first democratic election in 1994. In this financial year we saw the formation of the Government of National Unity.

One may stand and be surprised by this kind of introduction, and even go on to say, what business does it have to do with Mikhulu Trust. The reality is that we are part of the whole ecosystem and as part of the ecosystem, we are affected by major shifts in government and also the way we do business even though we are a non-state sector entity. Some of our funders, global markets, including government departments that are partially funding some of the programs are highly affected by this change.

I am pleased to acknowledge and inform our people that despite of all those turbulences mentioned, the organization managed to thrive and finished the year in a healthy state. Credit goes to all the people who have been steering the ship, and more especially Ms. Karen Ross who took the reins for six months when Mrs. Kaathima Ibrahim was on maternity leave. The employees of this organization have been incredible, thank you so much colleagues for serving the communities with integrity and respect they deserve.

Our funding partners have made all this work easy and possible by ensuring that we have the resources that we need to perform our duties. Our implementing partners have not just performed alongside with us but also ensured that we learn from them as they also continue to learn from us, thank you so much.

The amazing Board of Mikhulu Child Development Trust has provided strategic direction in so many areas, thank you for your confidence in this organization and also supporting Mrs. Kaathima Ibrahim during difficult times. Lastly, I would like to welcome Tarun Varma and Zaheera Mohamed who have joined the organization mid-season but ensured that they moved and shake the sector, including challenging inflexible ways of doing things, thank you so much and welcome to the winning developmental team.

In closing, I want to encourage everybody who is involved in the field of community development more especially those who are advocating for the fundamental rights of young children towards good education and solid foundation, not to be faint hearted but to stand for these vulnerable citizens. May this organization continue to make strides in educating our nation.

Mdebuka Mthwazi, Chairman



New #MakingSenseAtMikhulu Infographics

Our programmes at Mikhulu Trust are underpinned by academic research about the benefits of book-sharing with young children. This research can be complex and so we have created a series of infographics that help make the research easier to understand. This is what #MakingSenseAtMikhulu is all about. This range of easy-to-read materials clearly explain the research projects that we have been involved in.

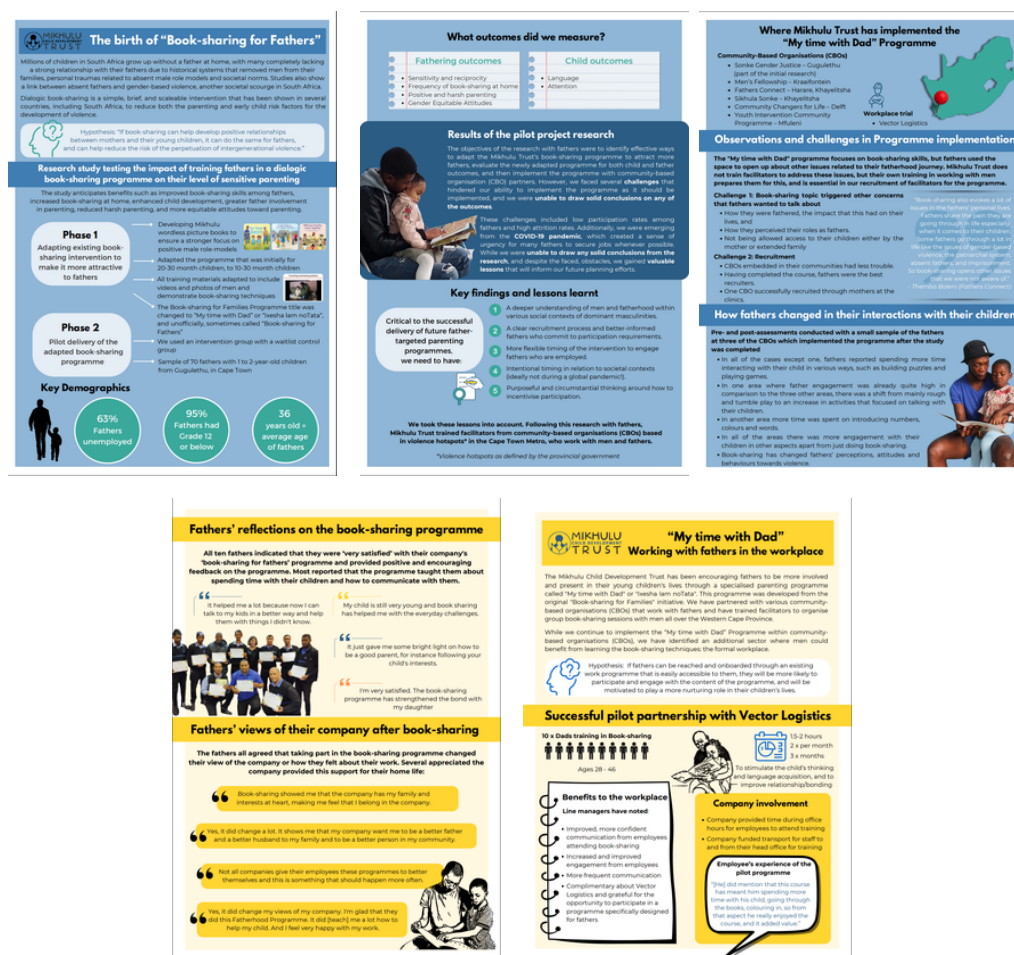
We launched two new infographics as part of [#MakingSenseAtMikhulu](#) and these spotlight the research done on the "Book-sharing with Fathers" programme and an innovative approach to working with fathers by bringing the programme to their workplace.

The "Book-sharing for Families" programme had naturally been attractive for mothers, but fathers struggled to find their place in the group setting. Adapting the programme to more thoughtfully include fathers was a necessary step. This adaptation encourages their active participation in book-sharing, supported by tailored materials that address their unique perspectives and experiences.

The first new infographic in our expanded #MakingSenseAtMikhulu series is titled "The Birth of the Book-sharing for Fathers." It highlights the research process, key outcomes, and the steps taken to refine and implement the "My Time with Dad" programme (which is the new name that fathers wanted for the programme). This visual journey illustrates how evidence-based insights have shaped a meaningful initiative to strengthen bonds between fathers and their children through book-sharing.

The second new infographic in our #MakingSenseAtMikhulu series spotlights the implementation of "My Time with Dad" as offered to a group of fathers in their workplace. They were taught book-sharing techniques and creating meaningful connections within families. The benefits extend beyond the home, fostering employee appreciation, and positively impacting workplace communication.

Dialogic book-sharing is a simple, brief, and scalable intervention that has been shown in several countries, including South Africa, to reduce both the parenting and early child risk factors for the development of violence.



Fathers' Reflections on "My Time with Dad" and Book-sharing



New Beginnings

That first book opened up a new world for me and made a whole lot of things possible. My ex-girlfriend feels very proud of me now. Today, I can go to her house, just knock on the door and go in – I have access to my child which I didn't have before. I feel so happy and like a new person.

– Adj, Delft



Changing views on violence

The book-sharing programme changed the kind of person that I was because even with my wife, I'm not so aggressive anymore. The programme gave me a different perspective on how to do stuff and helped me not to do the same things to my children.

– Siyabonga, Wallacedene



Increased family ties

My children call my name and cry when I leave the house now. Before it was just their mother who was close to them but now, I am also. At least I feel like I'm part of the family now.

– Siyabonga, Wallacedene



Putting family first

Sometimes we spend all our time being too busy and trying to make money and stuff, and we end up missing family time. So, book-sharing creates that time. Even if we are busy, we need to find that 30 minutes just to have family time.

– Samuel, Delft



Increased bonding

Thanks to book-sharing, it changed my whole perspective on life. It showed me that I have to be a part of my children's life. Book-sharing is important. The way I see it is if I don't do book-sharing the bond between me and my child won't be the same again.

– Samuel, Delft



Gender roles in the family:

What the book-sharing opened up for me was that I always thought that raising the children was for the mother, and the father wasn't there.

– Siyabonga, Wallacedene



Raising children how they were raised

Here, we talk about a culture that is instilled in our mind – how we are brought up – and we did not see anything wrong with it until we came across the Mikhulu Trust. Before I came to the book-sharing training, I was raising my children in the same way that I was brought up. We learned that how we were disciplined as children is not how we should be doing things now.

– Bongi, Kraaifontein



Prioritising children and family

My priorities changed a lot because I could see the connection growing between me and my child, not only the child, but also his mother and my mother-in-law. The whole family dynamic changed.

– Adj, Delft

Research with the Centre of Universal Education at Brookings Institution

Representing SA at the Global Symposium

In June 2024, Mikhulu's Head of Programmes and Acting CEO, Karen Ross, headed to Washington DC to attend the Global Symposium on Family, School, and Community Engagement: Building Stronger Partnerships, which was hosted by The Center for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution. The publication "The Six Global Lessons on How Family, School, and Community Engagement Can Transform Education" which documented the research that was done by 16 organisation around the world was launched at the event, and was followed by a panel discussions and interactive workshops based on some of the findings.

Project History

This project began in June 2023, when Mikhulu Trust partnered with the Centre for Universal Education at the Brookings Institute to research new ways to address global education challenges and drive innovative approaches to improving quality education and skills development.

Around the world, surveys have been conducted in primary and high schools using the "Conversation Starter Toolkit" to explore how parents and teachers view education. These tools help families and schools find common ground by addressing different views on the purpose of school, what quality education looks like, and preferred teaching approaches.

This research highlights the importance of collaboration, building trust, and involving families in education systems to create fair and effective learning environments.

For the first time, the Centre for Universal Education (CUE) extended this research to Early Childhood Development centres, selecting Mikhulu Trust as its partner to provide insights from South Africa. Mikhulu is the only ECD organisation among 16 global participants.

Impact and Insights shared at the Symposium

Documented in a case study by the CUE, Mikhulu Trust's research in private ECD Centres revealed two main findings. First, the relational trust between parents/caregivers and ECD educators in South Africa was higher than in other countries. This was attributed to constant communication, given the developmental stage of the children, and the fact that teachers were from the same communities as the parents/caregivers.

A second significant finding was that, despite efforts to promote greater play-based learning in ECD Centres in South Africa, families and educators did not prioritise play-based learning. When questioning why so few families and educators prioritise play-based learning, conversations revealed that parents/caregivers were confused about what learning through play meant and its importance for developing essential skills for school success.



What now?

Mikhulu Trust is taking the lessons learned from the Conversation Starter Tools research to explore what a family-friendly ECD centre looks like and is reflecting on the role that play-based learning can and should play in ECD Centres. As we plan their next steps as an organisation and our role in the ECD sector, this community-driven research provides critical insights on how one can promote more family-friendly ECD Centres.

For the full case study from Mikhulu Trust's findings by the CUE, [click here](#) and scroll to page 158.

Nurturing Families Centre

A Space for Growth, Support and Connection

“The Nurturing Families Centre has changed the way that I think about parenting,” reflects one parent. “I’m learning to be softer and more attentive. I don’t always have to shout to be heard. The Centre has helped me reflect on how I was raised and make a conscious shift toward raising my children in a more supportive and positive way.”

This heartfelt testimony captures the essence of the Nurturing Families Centre — a safe, welcoming space where parents and caregivers come together to learn, reflect, and connect with their children. Established by Mikhulu Trust in November 2023, the first Centre was based in Khayelitsha and was designed to offer hands-on parenting support and promote positive parent-child relationships. Over the course of the year, the concept has flourished, with additional Centres being established at venues alongside our CBO partners. This includes Delft, Phillippi, Kayamandi, Vrygrond, Khayelitsha (2), Makhaza,

The Centre creates a calm and focused environment where parents and caregivers of children under six can step away from the distractions of daily life to spend meaningful time together and meet other parents. Led by a dedicated facilitator who is also a registered social worker, each session combines gentle guidance with space for honest conversation.

The programme follows a structured yet flexible approach. Key areas of focus include:



Parental Support: Offering psychosocial support, affirmations, and addressing personal struggles that affect caregiving.



Parenting Guidance: Answering parenting questions and creating awareness about resources such as childcare grants, legal systems, foster care and adoption services.



Parent-Child Relationships: Encouraging nurturing, stimulating connections between caregivers and children.



Child Development: Sharing accessible, low-cost ways to support a child’s development and guidance on what to do if caregivers have developmental concerns.



Peer support - Caregivers have an opportunity to engage with each other and share advice and thoughts on parenting young children. As these peer bonds develop, a support network of caregivers is built.

Each session is interactive, with group discussions, Q&A segments, and sharing circles that allow parents to learn from one another. The facilitator helps identify areas where support is needed and responds with practical strategies or referrals. Parents are not just taught — they are heard, seen, and supported, and they also help to support each other.

Parents/caregivers and their children enjoy supervised play together using educational toys and resources, many of which were kindly donated to us through the course of the year. This focused one-on-one time allows parents to connect without the usual distractions of home, strengthening the bond between them and their little ones.

The Nurturing Families Centre is not a programme — it is a place of belonging and transformation. As one parent put it:

“It’s where you learn that raising children doesn’t have to mean repeating the past — it can mean choosing a kinder, more connected way forward.”

Breaking the Silence: Sharlene's Journey to Literacy Through Book-Sharing



Sharlene is 42 years old and lives in the Boland with her 4-year-old son, who attends the local crèche. Life has been difficult for Sharlene due to a traumatic childhood, which resulted in her being unable to learn to read or write. Her illiteracy has affected her self-esteem, especially when comparing herself to her siblings, who have become impatient with her. However, Auntie Margaret, the crèche teacher, has been supportive. She invited Sharlene to participate in book-sharing training, organized by the Inceba Trust at the school, after learning about Sharlene's situation.

"At first, I was a little bit afraid because I thought I would have to be able to read the book", says Sharlene. "But when I arrived at the crèche, the facilitator told me I didn't have to be able to read. I found out that the books have no words. So, it was very nice for me to hear."

Sharlene initially felt intimidated because she was trying to remember all the terminology used in the training, such as "pointing and naming" and "perspectives". However, the facilitator kindly reassured her that the words didn't matter as much as the interactions she engaged in with her son. This reassurance had a calming effect on her, allowing her to fully immerse herself in the book-sharing experience. Sharlene found that book-sharing came to her naturally and instinctively. "I really started to enjoy the book-sharing once I realised the most important thing was to talk about the picture and follow my boy's interests, and not to worry about words that I couldn't remember. Right at the beginning it felt very strange but the more I did it the more it felt like I started to adapt. I began to feel very comfortable because there is nothing I have to read. You must just explain what you see in the story."

Book-sharing has made a powerful impact on Sharlene, boosting her self-esteem and igniting her determination to learn to read. "Book-sharing has opened my eyes and my mind, and I want to get closer to learning to read," she says. She believes that now is the perfect time to acquire this skill, as she wants to be able to support her son as he grows older. Sharlene has taken the first step by joining her local library and fearlessly borrowing children's books with words, focusing on the pictures as she engages in book-sharing with her son. This illustrates the magic of book-sharing - one doesn't need to read to participate!



Did you know that even with the significant reduction in the adult illiteracy rate in South Africa, in 2024 nearly 4 million adults still cannot read?

What would your daily life be like if you couldn't read or write?

Without reading skills, simple actions become impossible: reading a prescription, a form, obtaining information, choosing a ballot paper, finding a job... Literacy is acknowledged as an instrument of empowerment and facilitates access to better health, employment and poverty reduction. Without it, self-confidence can take a massive knock. For most, illiteracy is not a choice but the outcome of various personal circumstances. Factors such as abuse at home, a lack of parental support, or parents who do not fully understand the importance of education can all contribute to a child's inability to read and write. These challenges create barriers that prevent individuals from accessing the opportunities that literacy can provide, trapping them in cycles of disadvantage and limiting their potential. Addressing illiteracy requires a compassionate understanding of these underlying issues and a commitment to providing the necessary support and resources to break these cycles.



Growing Together: How Book-Sharing Changed Siya's Approach to Parenting

"My 3-year-old daughter is so clever! Just the other day, while we were looking at pictures in a book, she pointed to a dress and said, 'This dress is like my mother's dress.' I was so proud—she was making connections, linking things together. It amazed me to see her thinking that way."

Siya wants his daughter to have a better upbringing than he had, which is why he is so focused on making sure she is happy and goes to a good preschool.

Building Bonds

Siya tells us, "Our connection is strong, and I think that bond is partly because I make an effort to understand and support her," He goes on to say:

"Growing up in the Eastern Cape was different from life now. Back then, discipline meant saying things like, 'I will beat you. Why are you doing this?' if you did something wrong. But since starting book-sharing, I've realized there's a better way to discipline. I used to react sharply, with 'Jhy, no! Haai' like we Xhosa people do, but these books have softened me. Now, if she's upset, I hand her a book instead. Her favourite is Hide and Seek."

A Child-led Approach

With book-sharing, Siya understands he is meant to let his daughter lead the way, which he has found to be quite easy because, he jokingly admits, his daughter is often one step ahead of him! She points out details, like saying, "This is an orange, Tata," without Siya needing to prompt her. "Since we started sharing books, it has helped me see that I don't need to be so strict to guide my little girl. Since we started, I've stopped saying, 'I'll beat you,' and smacking her hand. I'm more patient, and I think it's brought us closer."

Beyond Books: The Wider Impact of Parenting Choices

Siya has noticed that book-sharing has impacted more than just him and his daughter. He explains: "At our church, there are always lots of kids around, but we often do things in front of them without thinking, like drinking or smoking. In our small homes, with only one room, the children are always nearby, watching and listening." Book-sharing opened Siya's eyes to how the adult's behaviour affects the children. "I realized that drinking, smoking, or even shouting near them isn't right; they're taking all of this in. There are some things that children shouldn't be exposed to."

Creating a Nurturing Environment for Healthy Development

This experience has shown Siya that protecting our children's innocence is part of raising them well and ensuring they grow up in an environment that fosters healthy emotional and psychological development. By being mindful of their surroundings and the behaviours adults model, we not only shield them from negative influences but also teach them the values and principles that will guide them throughout their lives. This awareness allows parents like Siya to create a nurturing atmosphere where children can thrive, learn, and develop a strong sense of self without the burdens of adult issues prematurely weighing on them.

Strengthening School Readiness through the Siyafunda Community Learning Hubs Project

In July 2024, Mikhulu Trust joined Nal'ibali, Macmillan Education and the Sunshine Association to launch the Siyafunda Community Learning Hubs Project in Umsunduzi Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. Supported by USAID and led by Nal'ibali, this initiative focuses on improving school readiness for children aged 0–6 by strengthening early literacy foundations at community level.

The project responds to findings from the Thrive by Five Index (2021), which showed that only 45% of children aged 4–5 are developmentally on track nationally — with KwaZulu-Natal accounting for just 31% of that figure. These statistics highlight the urgent need for targeted, community-based support to prepare children for formal schooling.

Siyafunda works simultaneously with ECD practitioners, caregivers, and community-based facilitators. Between July 2024 and February 2026 approximately:

350 ECD practitioners and day mothers will be trained

800 Caregivers will be trained

2000 Young children will be directly benefited

10 Community hubs will be operated across

46 Locally based staff will be employed

The programme promotes early language development, attention skills, fine motor development, and play-based learning — with inclusive support for children with disabilities or developmental delays.

Mikhulu's Contribution

Mikhulu's role focuses on strengthening caregivers' confidence and capacity to share books meaningfully with young children. Using our evidence-based dialogic book-sharing approach, we developed:

- A structured book-sharing manual to guide local “Story Sparkers” during home visits and group sessions
- A series of isiZulu training and demonstration videos to support practical learning
- Visual take-home cards reinforcing key techniques
- A dedicated WhatsApp support platform to provide ongoing guidance to caregivers

By equipping caregivers with practical, accessible tools — particularly through wordless picture books — the project strengthens early language, bonding, and responsive interaction in the home. Through the Siyafunda Community Learning Hubs Project, Mikhulu Trust continues its mission of supporting caregivers as children's first teachers and helping more young children enter school confident, connected, and ready to learn.



State of South African Fathers Report 2024

The “SOSAF” report, officially titled “**The State of South Africa’s Fathers,**” is a data-driven exploration of fatherhood in South Africa, released by **Sonke Gender Justice, Equimundo**, and other partners, examining the evolving realities of fatherhood and the challenges faced by fathers.

The State of South Africa’s Fathers 2024 report provides a comprehensive look at the **evolving role of fatherhood in South Africa**, challenging traditional narratives, such as the “absent father”, and advocating for a broader, more inclusive understanding of father involvement.

Mikhulu’s Contribution

Mikhulu Trust is thrilled that our case study, “**Book-sharing as a tool for father involvement and strengthening family bonds**”, co-written by **Karen Ross and Carolyn Pringle**, is featured in the State of South Africa’s Fathers (SOSAF) Report 2024. This report examines the **changing realities of fatherhood in South Africa**, amidst socioeconomic challenges and evolving gender roles. It considers men’s contributions, struggles, and potential as caregivers. The SOSAF report is not just a publication; it’s a remarkable opportunity to influence and elevate the national dialogue on fatherhood.

Mikhulu’s journey around “Fatherhood” has been one of tremendous growth. We have **tailored our book-sharing training materials and wordless picture books to engage men, drawing them into our transformative programmes**

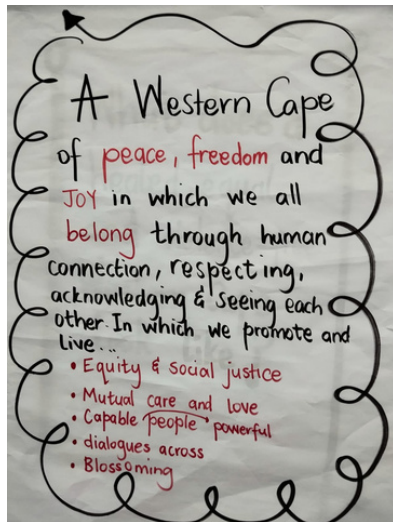
Through many interviews with men, we have witnessed the **impactful changes fathers are making** in their relationships with their children, partners, and extended families. They are no longer seen as the “**typical absent father**”. These positive transformations are a testament to the power of our book-sharing, which **empowers fathers to share their personal experiences and insights**. Together, we are redefining what it means to be an involved and nurturing father.

We celebrate this publication as **we stand together with many wonderful organisations** that are greatly contributing to a change in the role of fathers in society. You can download the report [here](#).



Advocacy: VPF Dialogue Session

In November 2024, Mikhulu Trust was represented at a recent 2-day Western Cape Violence Prevention Forum dialogue session. During the session, a beautiful Vision was crafted for the Western Cape:



While this is a work in progress, it is certainly something we can all take on, making the change within us to lovingly embrace our connections with others.

Karen Ross, Mikhulu Trust's Head of Programmes, hosted our table, which showcased infographics on "The Birth of Our Book-sharing for Fathers" and "Book-sharing in the Workplace for Dads". The display included a range of wordless picture books and materials from our book-sharing programme.

The Western Cape Violence Prevention Forum (WC VPF) is a provincial platform that has brought together violence prevention practitioners from different sectors twice a year to share knowledge and strengthen partnerships. It is a platform for dialogue between policymakers, researchers, NGOs, social movements, donors, and representatives of the private sector who have the shared purpose of creating a South Africa that is violence-free.

Convened by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the Forum is guided by a multisectoral steering committee, with meetings facilitated by independent experts to ensure a balanced and inclusive environment.

Meetings emphasize inclusive participation, grounded in shared agreements: be present, share honestly, respect others, accept differing views, be mindful of power dynamics, stay open to collaboration, and enjoy the process.



Other News

June 2024

Welcome to the Mikhulu family – our very first vehicle, which has enabled us to make a greater impact as we deliver our programmes. Thanks to the Iqraa Trust for making this possible.

August 2024

Chwayita Mbambo successfully passed (with flying colours) a Monitoring and Evaluation course with UCT. She has integrated her newfound skills into her work at Mikhulu Trust, helping to strengthen our programmes.

September 2024

Kaathima Ebrahim (Mikhulu CEO) presented at the well-attended Jelly Beanz Child Trauma Conference 2024 on "Dialogic book-sharing as a means of curbing violence in children and caregivers".

November 2024

Our colleague, Zikhona Jongizulu, celebrated the launch of her first published book, entitled "Ndiligqiyazana nje ndomelele", loosely translated to mean "A Strong Woman". This compelling story is a blend of fiction and nonfiction, and tells of resilience, survival, and overcoming the odds. It follows a young woman who, after enduring gender-based violence and the trauma of an abusive home, makes difficult choices that carry consequences, but she refuses to let her past define her. She chooses to fight, to heal, and ultimately, to rise.

October 2024

New book-sharing video series on YouTube! We launched 16 short videos on book-sharing techniques and tips, available on the Mikhulu Trust Communications YouTube channel. These videos look at different aspects of how to do book-sharing with your child. Topics include Pointing and naming, Linking to everyday life, Comparisons, Feelings and emotions, Intentions, Perspectives, and Relationships, to name a few. These videos were also shared with fellow NPO, Grow ECD. Grow ECD is an app. On that app, parents and ECD centre workers can access resources to help the way they play and interact with children. Mikhulu submitted our new videos, and they have been uploaded to the App to be viewed data-free.

February 2025

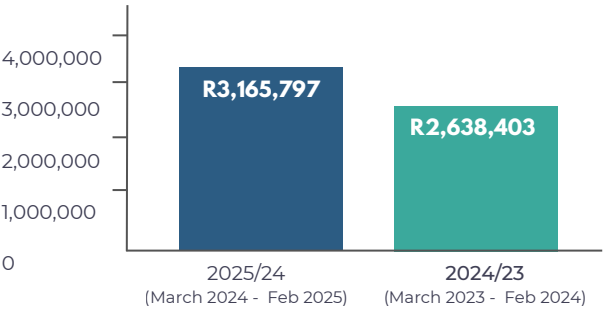
Mikhulu Trust proudly participated in the Cape Flats Book Festival. Chwayita manned our stand, which featured our wordless picture books available at a special discounted rate. The event provided a fantastic opportunity to share the magic of book-sharing, engage with the Cape Town community, and introduce more people to the important work we do at Mikhulu Trust.

October 2024

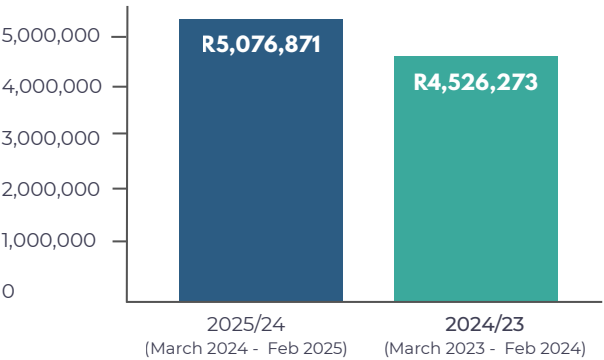
We celebrated the Mikhulu Trust's 7th birthday! From humble beginnings with just three team members, we've grown into a dedicated team of nine, each fully committed to supporting parents on their parenting journey. Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact, bringing the power of book-sharing to more families and communities every year. The past few years have been a tremendous time of growth, learning and impact. Here's to many more years of making a difference together! Thank you to everyone who has supported us along the way.

Finances

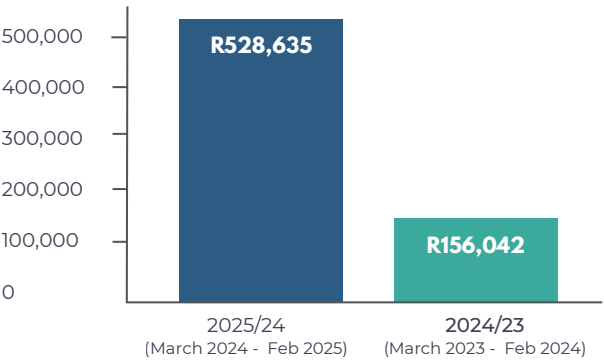
Total funds and liabilities



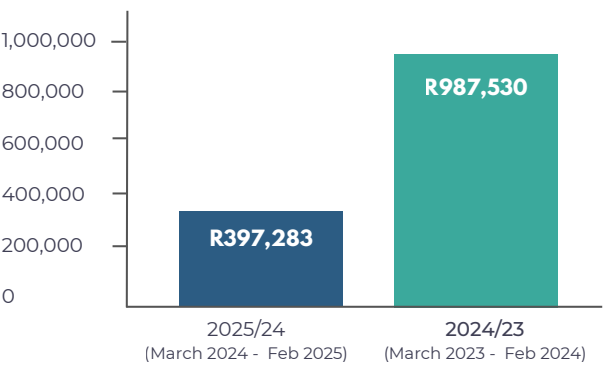
Revenue - Grants and Donations Received



Book Sales and Training Income



Surplus for the Year



Meet the Team

- Kaathima Ebrahim - CEO
- Shelley de Wet - CFO
- Karen Ross - Head of Programmes and Acting CEO
- Zikhona Jongizulu - Programme Co-ordinator
- Prudence Pietersen - Programme Co-ordinator
- Sibulele Nxoshe - Social Worker
- Alicia Ndlazulwane - Social Worker
- Chwayita Mbambo - Intern and Office coordinator

Meet the Board

- David Graham Sizwe Jeffery
- Fatima Abba
- Kaathima Ebrahim (Chief Executive Officer)
- Linda Travis
- Mdebuka Maxwell Mthwazi (Chairperson)
- Nafeesa Rahbeeni
- Tarun Varma
- Teboga Mapula Shwambane
- John Dale Smelcer (Resigned 29 April 2024)



Our Network

We are proud members of South African Parenting Programme Implementers Network (SAPPIN), the Violence Prevention Forum (VPF), and the Family Engagement in Education Network (FEEN) — part of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institution's global work on family engagement in education — strengthening our collaboration, learning, and contribution to both national and international dialogues on parenting and early childhood development.

Our Partners

Government Partners

- City of Cape Town Library Services
- Department of Social Development Western Cape
- Western Cape Department of Health
- Western Cape Library Services



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU

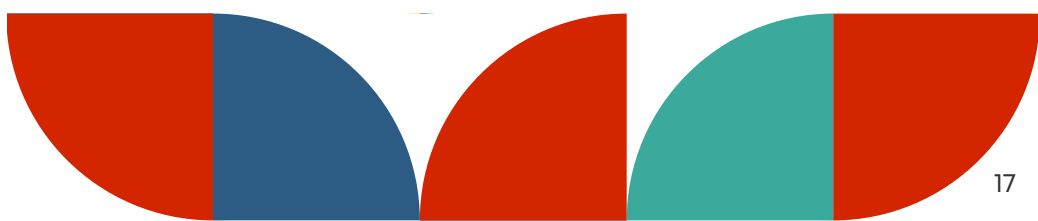
Implementing Partners



Lake Tiberias
Church



Our government and implementing partners have been critical to the work of the Mikhulu Trust and have ensured that we reach our beneficiaries.



Thanks to Our Donors

Without the generous support of our funders and donors, our work would simply not be possible. A sincere thank you for your support!

- Fuchs Foundation
- Shine Literacy
- USAID_Nal'ibali
- Childwick Trust (Jim Joel)
- DG Murray Trust
- Rolf-Stephen Nussbaum Foundation
- WC Department of Social Development
- World Childhood Foundation
- Kargo National (Pty) Ltd
- Iqraa Trust





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