We wrap up the year and reflect on what made it great in spite of the difficulties of lockdown and working within COVID restrictions. We celebrate the members of our team – new and old – who made it all happen, our funders who continue to believe in our work and the beneficiaries who join our programmes trusting their dreams and ambitions to us.

Thank you all.
Some of the wonderful things that we achieved with your support:

**Early Childhood Development**
- 19 ECD centres in our programme achieved compliance and registration with Department of Social Development.
- 73 learning kits were distributed to ECD centres – 34 for pre-Grade R classes and 39 for toddler classes.

**Siyakhathala Programme** (Primary reading programme)
- 68% overall average attendance at reading sessions.
- 3 environmental education events from CTEET (Cape Town Environmental Education Trust).

**Hope Scholars Programme** (Grade 9 learners)
- 2 hikes and an excursion to Kirstenbosch for 164 learners.
- Workshop on bullying.

**Bridging Year**
- 8 students have already been accepted into tertiary studies for 2022 (and rising).
- 2 hikes, 1 with TSP.

**Tertiary Support Programme**
- 12 expected graduates.
- 3 hikes (1 joint with BY).

We plan to do so much more in 2022. Donate now to keep the work going!
The 8 young interns have arrived and are contributing to our work and brightening the office spaces. Some are alumni of our programmes, such as Bridging Year and Tertiary Support Programme and are giving back to SAEP and the community.

**Amanda Msolo** holds a National Diploma in Landscape Architecture from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). She is working in our Hope Scholars Programme and her goal is “to always search for opportunities for continued career development, and to have a positive impact in the sphere of environmental education.”

**Buhle Sawuli** holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental and Water Science from University of the Western Cape (UWC), his goal is “to provide opportunities that will increase the low employment rate to benefit the economy in South Africa.” He is working in the Post-secondary programme of which he is an alumnus.

**Sihle Ngxabi**, working in Hope Scholars Programme, holds a Master’s Degree in Horticultural Sciences from CPUT. His ambition is “to encourage, engage and equip others to believe in the possibilities.”

**Sanelisiwe Mlaba**, working in the Post-secondary Programme is a graduate Environmental Health practitioner and aims “to inspire others through my actions but never forget the power of my voice. To not fear mistakes and to continue to learn from people”.

**Sipho Nkohla** has joined the ECD team. He holds a Diploma in Marine Science and BTech in Oceanography. He joined SAEP to be part of a progressive company, where he will grow with the organisation and continue to learn and enhance his skills and gain knowledge. His aim is “to grow capacity in my career and be able to fulfil my dreams.”

**Thumeka Qupuna**, an intern in the fundraising and marketing team, holds a National Diploma in Marketing from CPUT, and aims: “to positively impact the life of every person I meet.”

**Live Nako** holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from UWC. He intends to gain working experience, showcase the skills that he learnt at university and help to grow the company to achieve its goals. His aim is “to achieve all my short and long term goals and be an example in the community.” He works in the SP team.

**Busiswa Dibela**: Finance Graduate from CPUT, works in the finance team, aims to gain knowledge and skills in her professional career field and become more confident. Her aim is “to inspire and have a positive impact on people that I engage with”
SAEP team members say what worked for them this year

Masithembe Mqoto: “2021 for me has been good by the grace of God and as much as I have been living with doubt and crossing fingers because of the state of the country. Under the circumstances that we are working under (Taxi violence and Lockdown), we have managed to pull through and made it this far both professionally and personally. Although not all planned life events came through but the gift of life is greatest event of 2021.”

Abulele Mbaleki joined us early in 2021 as office administrator and receptionist. Her highlights: “I was happy to be involved in a few programme activities such as the BY career Expo and to learn about how important SAEP programmes are for development of our beneficiaries. (Working with) the cash flow allowed me to learn more about programme activities and allowed me to engage more with coordinators and our beneficiaries.”

Alungile Duli is a reading Coach who has been with us for 5 good years in the Siyakhathala Programme; this is what he has to say about his greatest professional achievement with SAEP and advice that he can give to other reading coaches and parents.

“I believe everyone to be a burning candle therefore, to keep the light on for long, one must light others’ candles; after all, one’s personal achievements and to do list will not matter but the role you played in lighting someone’s candle will leave a lasting mark. Share Love. Advice to parents and reading coaches is that they should sleep their adult character when dealing with kids and develop a welcoming character so that they can be free to make mistakes with them.”

Sihle Joja, Student Support Officer for the Post-secondary Programme, including Bridging Year (BY) and Tertiary Support Programme (TSP) shared her highlights for the year:

- 29 BY beneficiaries joined TSP this year, with 22 from the 2020 BY Cohort;
- Hosted activities had a good turnout in terms of attendance and participation;
- Staff development opportunities;
- Compared to the previous year, we bought more laptops for our beneficiaries; and
- We had 10 graduates from the 2020 academic year, out of 12 students that were in their final year.
Board

We welcome Haroon Mahomed who joined the board of SAEP in October. He holds the position of Deputy Director General for Curriculum Management, Teacher Development and Examinations at the Education Department of the Western Cape and has held similar positions in other education departments, specializing in curriculum development. He has worked in a number of progressive education projects and structures, and played and coached soccer. His interests include community work and poetry. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board.

Fundiswa Yuba gave us the benefit of her experience of Human Resource management in the 2 years that she served on our board. We thank her for this contribution and wish her well.

Training in Sustainable Development

Three members of the SAEP team are enrolled in a course on Education for Sustainable Development with Rhodes University. The course is presented from September 2021 to March 2022 and aims to extend the capacity of individuals and organisations to facilitate education programmes for sustainable development.

SAEP is represented by Lerato Lehlabathe, and Groen Sebenza interns, Sihle Ngxabi and Amanda Msolo. In late November they attended a contact session, lasting 3 days, in Johannesburg.

Lerato values the professional growth enabled by the course and the skills with which she is being equipped. She says:

"It came just at the time when our programme is adding new projects to strengthen our programme, Eco literacy in Siyakhathala Programme and school greening in the Hope Scholars Programme. . . being on the course has brought a big adventure for me."

Team members are supported on the course by their managers and by the CEO, Donavan Fullard who serves as their mentor. There will be benefit to SAEP and our programmes.

Happy holidays everyone!
Local shoppers can support us every time they swipe their MySchool My Village My Planet cards – choose us as your charity.

MySchool My Village My Planet

Start-up kit for 1 ECD Centre, including sanitizing and protective materials, and food for nutritious meals for the children;

Data and stationery for 1 post-secondary student, or contribute to the cost of a laptop;

An outing for one learner in secondary school – Hope Scholars Programme.

Your gift of R500 ($34) would contribute to:

DONATE NOW

Thank you for making a difference.

Our regular individual donors are the Angels who sustain us.

CLICK HERE to become an angel and sign up for regular donations

Thank You!

Contact Us

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The South African Education Project (SAEP) is a non-profit organisation (NPO 028 310), based in Cape Town, South Africa. Since 1994, we have provided education, life skills, and psycho-social support programmes for children youth and education providers.