

Our purpose is to transform the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in rural Zimbabwe. Part of our vision is to ensure that no child is without a birth certificate and that no child is turned away from school. We support & protect the children through child safeguarding, the scholarship fund, mental health support and good nutrition.



Annual Report 2022

Sethule Orphans' Trust
January 2023
Thabbeth Cotton

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1 Words from Thabbeth



In 2022, our main theme was **“Give a child a chance!”**

Every child deserves a chance to have a home, a chance to learn in a safe environment and a chance to achieve his or her full potential. Poverty, child abuse and family breakdown remain as the main obstacles to a child’s welfare in Zimbabwe. However, I have seen such obstacles conquered through the support Sethule gives to children. I have seen children smile with joy because of the chances given and the chances to live their lives with hope of a bright future.

I reflect how many lives we have touched and how many chances we have given which have led to so many positive results. I am delighted to see the hope and confidence in those children to whom we have given a “chance”, especially those who are part of the Sethule Scholarship. I believe that great opportunities await these children. Sethule will undertake to support and cheer them along in their life’s journey. Thank you to you all for being part of this journey!

In 2022, we were able to work without the COVID 19 restrictions. All Sethule programmes were resumed and new ones were introduced. New partnerships were established which gave Sethule increasing visibility in Zimbabwe.

Statistics At a Glance

- + **1618** teenagers attended the Dare to be different club
- + **1529** children attended the REACT program
- + **1226** children & **147** adults attended the Mental Health awareness sessions
- + **625** Birth certificates were obtained
- + **346** children & **70** adults attended the Child Safeguarding awareness
- + **172** Attended the ATTIC youth Talent camp
- + **240** families received our Nutrition support packs
- + **53** Benefited from the scholarship fund
- + **39** children and teenagers received lessons at the Sethule Skills Centre
- + **78** Attended Positive Parenting workshops

2 Education

With the theme, “give a child a chance” our education department focused on the following:

- + Early childhood development preschools
- + Educational opportunities through scholarship
- + Essential life skills
- + Establishing a safe environment in schools

2.1 Early Child Development centres



This year Emarika ECD celebrated 15 years of existence

Emarika ECD

Our ECD Preschools serve the rural villages in different communities. Having successfully served the Matopo community for 15 years, the Emarika ECD is well established and well sought out by the villagers. The Emarika ECD provides high quality early child stimulation, encouraging the children play and learn according to their age and ability.

Emarika ECD honours and celebrates some national events. The celebration Africa day was enjoyed by both children and parents. A variety of African cuisines were prepared. In December, we said goodbye to 21 pupils who will be starting junior school in January 2023.



Girls eating traditional food during the Africa Day celebration

Sethule Hope Centre

The Sethule Hope centre gives children between the ages 3 to 5 years, “a chance to learn & play”. Owing to COVID19 restrictions, it was closed in 2021. This however gave us an opportunity to renovate the centre as well as install more equipment in the play area.



Children playing at the Sethule Hope centre.

Both the Emarika ECD and the Sethule Hope Centre continue to provide supplementary food, most of which comes from the Sethule garden.



The garden grows vegetables such as beans, tomatoes and kale.

2.2 Educational Opportunities through the Sethule Scholarship fund



Part of the 53 scholarship recipients

Our scholarship fund gives many poor and marginalised pupils a chance to be properly schooled. Selected children are assisted from junior school right up to college or university. A total of **53** pupils and students benefited from the scholarship fund. Of these, **13** are at junior school, **34** at senior school and **6** at college or university.

2.3 Skills Centre

The Sethule Skills centre bridges a huge gap between children growing up in rural areas and those in urban areas. During the school holidays, 10 students at a time are accommodated for ten days. Here our rural scholarship children, (who all come from deprived families) learn day to day skills that enable them to cope with the demands and expectations of urban life. Some additional skills offered include: personal hygiene, communication skills, home management, cooking lessons, carpentry, sewing and gardening.

This year a total of **7** sessions were arranged with **39** children attending at least once or twice during the year.

Various renovations were also made at the centre this year, including an extension of the bathrooms and the building of a gazebo, to provide shade for outdoor activities and meals.



Students learning gardening...



...at the Skills centre

2.4 Establishing safe environments in schools

Child safeguarding in schools

Because we take child safeguarding seriously, we strive to ensure our students have a safe school and home environment. Throughout 2022, Our Sethule Team held regular child safeguarding workshops not just the school children, but also parents and teachers.

These workshops enable the pupils/students to be vigilant in ways of interacting and recognizing the signs of abuse with their peers, parents, visitors and teachers. This year in 2022, the Sethule Safeguarding team reached out to 346 pupils/students and 70 Adults (teachers & parents).



Teachers at a child safeguarding workshop

Rejecting and Exposing sexual abuse

The REACT (Reject Expose All Child Trauma) programme not only empowers children to protect themselves from sexual abuse but also directs them to simple ways of exposing the perpetrator.

Holding on to the theme of 'keeping children safe in schools', REACT Sessions were held in different schools. To create a friendlier environment for the children, our lessons were given through acts of drama. These laid out scenarios that the children might face and showed what they could do when faced with similar situations. In 2022, REACT sessions reached out to **1529** children between the ages 8 and 12 years.



Children as a REACT session

2.5 Message from Thoko

My name is Thoko, I am 16 years old. When I was 6 years old, it was a sad time for me as my father died and my mother was ill. Life became better when I was 8 years old, because I became a Sethule beneficiary. My school fees were paid and I had a clean school uniform & good shoes. At the age of 12 years, I passed the national junior examination, receiving the best results in my district. I was then awarded a Sethule scholarship and this allowed me to attend one of the best boarding schools in Zimbabwe. The opportunity to study at a boarding school has helped me to strengthen my talent in sports. I am part of the school Athletics team and have also competed at Provincial level where I received a gold medal.

Attending the seven days annual 'ATTIC' youth camp is always great. Over the years, I have learnt singing, dancing, drama and to interact well with my peers.

Attending the Sethule Skills Centre has exposed me to many skills that I had not learnt either at home or at school. These include textile designing, woodwork, gardening, computer studies as well as food technology. I have also been assisted academically in subjects that I was weaker in.

Sethule has continuously provided me with emotional support and this has boosted my confidence in many ways. At present I am waiting for my 'O' level results which I am positive will be good and I look forward to starting my 'A' level course. Thank you Sethule for giving me a chance to see my dreams come true.



Photo of Thoko

3 Child Mental Health Support

Our Child Mental health awareness programme was introduced this year after acknowledging its importance, especially amongst children who come from poor & marginalised families. Because of pressing problems of daily life, mental health often is neglected, yet is vitally important, more so even in a poorly resourced environment. The programme is implemented in villages, with special attention being given to children in schools, teachers and parents & guardians.

The main purpose is to focus on the psychosocial needs of the orphans and vulnerable children. We also address issues of child mental health that are often misunderstood, especially in rural communities. Our mental health awareness campaign revealed that many rural adults had little or no concept of child mental health. The negative impact of mental disturbance on a child and the people around them is often ignored or overlooked. This initiative provides timely information about mental health, the type of disorders associated with it, as well as finding ways of coping.

Teachers, parents and guardians play a vital role in children's lives and they have a responsibility to create an environment where children can express their feelings and emotions. To address this, we held awareness workshops with teachers from many different schools. We reached out to the parents/guardians through the Sethule Positive Parenting sessions that were already being held regularly throughout the year.

Mental health awareness sessions were held with pupils/students from both junior and senior school in secondary schools and primary school. Discussions with students focused mainly on the challenges faced by children, how these affect their mental health and exploring a variety of coping mechanisms.

Sethule trained counsellors gave counselling on site to those children who needed such help. This meant that the children did not need to travel far from their homes and could receive family support at the same time. More complex cases could be referred accordingly for additional expert help.

By the end 2022 we had held **16** sessions. Below are the statistics:

Group receiving Mental Health Awareness	Number of reached
Pupils/Student	1226
Parents	99
Teachers	48



Child receiving
mental health
counselling

4 Birth Certificate project

The Sethule Trust Birth Certificate Project is unique in that it recognises that the reasons for non-registration have strong socio-cultural roots. Our project works to raise awareness of social customs and traditions which hinder registration. It also advocates for early birth registration for children to allow them to access and practice their rights from birth.

In 2022, we were successful in forming an official partnership with the Department of the Registrar General of Umguza District.

One of the greatest challenges people in remote villages face is the long distance to the nearest registrar sub-offices. Such travel is expensive and unaffordable. Through our partnership with the registry office, we were able to take advantage of the revitalized national mobile registration scheme led by the Registrar General. This had previously not been effective because rural villagers were not made aware of the advantages, not informed in timely manner of the dates and times of the Registrar's visits and not informed of all the documentation needed.

Thereby, Sethule has now made it easier for those living in remote areas to be properly registered closer to their homes, without need to travel. Sethule's main task in this partnership is raising awareness among the villagers on the documents required (especially in more complicated cases) as well as mobilising communities for registration. The partnership has also allowed Sethule team to cover more ground and reach out to more communities. It has given the team an opportunity to establish good relationships with many different community & religious leaders, who themselves play an important role in conveying information to parents and families. As they are known locally, Sethule can use these contacts to share information on the importance of birth registration as well as the documents necessary for registration, and to "trouble-shoot" where there are difficulties.

Through this partnership, Sethule was able almost to double the number of birth certificates obtained, exceeding the year-begin target of 400.

To ensure the sustainability of the Birth certificate project, Sethule Trust has trained 13 Community Care Workers (CCWs). These are villagers whose task is to continue raising awareness in their respective communities on the importance of birth certificates, the procedures of birth registration, and the documents needed.

Year	Number of Birth Certificates obtained
2021	255
2022	625



Children happy to own a birth certificate



Data collection for birth registration

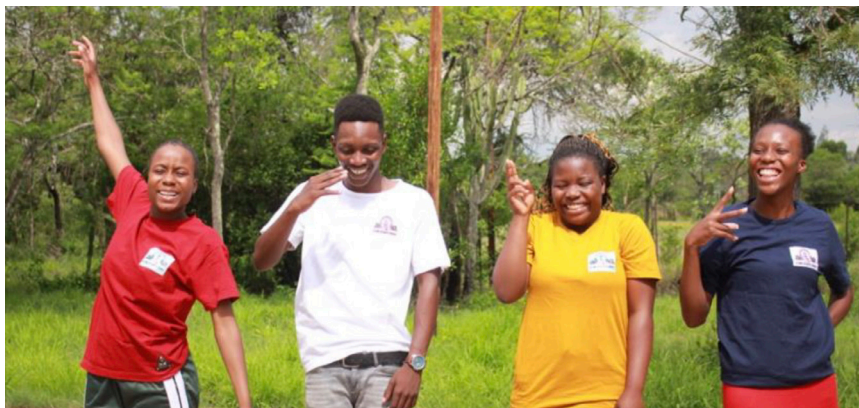
5 Sethule Clubs

5.1 D2BD – Dare to be different

The programme aspires to build a future generation led by responsible youths who are conscious of the consequences that come with each major decision made when young. Eager to build a better tomorrow, the ‘Dare to be different’ programme targets school going children. Through interactive sessions, teenagers gain insight on topics such as identity, safeguarding self & others, relationships, peer-pressure, bullying, and informed decision making.

Since the beginning of this program, Sethule has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from school authorities about behaviour change observed as a result of these sessions.

This year the programme reached out to **1618** students.



Teenagers during Dare to be different club

5.2 ATTIC

The ATTIC annual youth camp was extremely successful this year after a gap of three years because of COVID19. Most of the young people attending are either orphans or come from marginalized backgrounds. The camp is the only opportunity for them to participate in enjoyable communal activities, and gain a sense of belonging. Competitions in quiz, drama, singing, poetry and sports kept the children fully occupied. We introduced new study sessions which small groups attended every day, to discuss different relevant issues of life, belief and making positive choices. Several campers stated this was the best part of the camp (apart from the food!).

At the end of the camp there were prizes to be won and special recognition was given to individuals who showed enthusiasm, leadership, and talent throughout the camp. As before, it was held at St James High school, Boarding school 75km from Bulawayo from the 8th to the 14th of August 2022. A total of 122 teenagers and 18 adults attended.

5.2 WAGES

Our WAGES camp was introduced in 2019, as an opportunity for youths above 18 years. Unfortunately, because of COVID 19, it has not been hosted since. This year, as restrictions were eased, the camp was hosted at St James School from the 6th to the 8th of August 2022, just before ATTIC.

We had a total of 50 young adults who compete in a more mature form of ATTIC; this camp enables us to spot the talent and leadership for future ATTIC camps, and pinpoint future leaders and collaborators for Sethule.

6 Nutritional Support

Sethule distributes monthly food baskets to vulnerable families known to be in serious need, who are unable to afford a meal per day. Most of these families are either child-headed or led by an elderly female (“gogo”) with little or no source of income. The baskets include all basic commodities. This lifeline has literally kept several of these families surviving, despite restrictions and deprivations. This year, 240 families benefited from the nutrition support program with 20 families receiving regular monthly food packs.

Generous support, particularly at Christmas, enabled us hugely to extend this programme compared to previous years, which had been made very complicated because of COVID.



Gogo Martha receiving her monthly food pack

7 Infrastructure Development

On the 22nd November, there was a huge hailstorm in the Hope Fountain area. One of our pre-schools, Sethule Hope Centre, located in that area, was affected. During this incident, the roof was blown completely off by the wind. Fortunately, no injuries were recorded. The walls of the building were left rather unstable and the building was no longer safe for use. Below are the photos of the affected building. It is currently being re-built.



The storm damaged the roof and the walls

8 Finance

8.1 Accounts department

Sethule received both the ZIMRA tax clearance certificate and NSSA compliance certificate for the year 2022, meaning that the organization is in line with government tax regulations for the previous year.

As part of Sethule's Internal Control System (ICS) at the beginning of 2022, we introduced a procurement officer who is now responsible for all Sethule-related purchases. All our account templates were redesigned in preparation for financial audits.

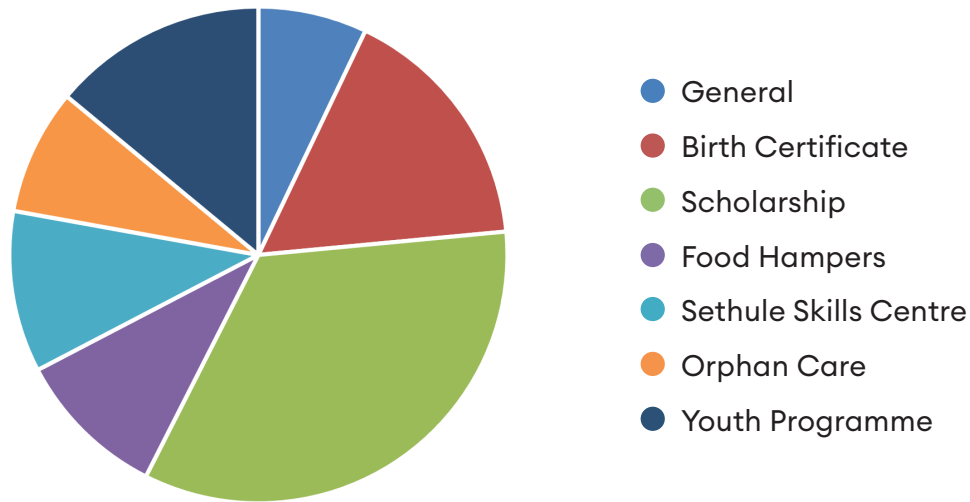
8.2 Financial breakdown

This financial summary covers the period of January to December 2022. Apart from the specific programme costs, each programme fund covers the general administration costs such as include admin fuel, salaries, council rates, electricity, Wi-Fi, vehicle service, license and insurance.

The table below contains the total expenses per programme.

Programme	Amount in \$	Details
General Expenses	12'985.80	+ General running of the organisation particularly general maintenance
Birth Certificate	30'140.19	+ Transport to villages + Salaries for the birth certificate project officers & driver + Major service of two Sethule vehicles
Scholarship	62'911.78	+ The large sum of the fund was towards school fees, uniforms, stationery, toiletries and boarding school refreshments for 17 boarding & 31-day school students + Tuition for 6 University/College students + Salaries for the coordinator, teacher, cook & gardener + Food & detergents for cleaning the Preschools + The bicycle project
Food Hampers	18'118.61	+ 20 families with monthly food supplement
Sethule Skills Centre	19'293.92	+ Bathroom tiling + Rent for Sethule Skills Centre + Salaries of the patron & matron of the centre
Youth Programmes	25'647.38	+ Transport to different schools + Student refreshments + Salaries for programme officers
Orphan Care and Mental Health	15'015.65	+ Transport to different schools + The fund supported the mental health programme + Salary of the programme coordinator
Total	184'813.34	

Pie chart showing the summary of our spending



9 Our 2022 Achievements

- + We successfully reopened & Sethule Hope Centre after a long break due to COVID 19 .
- + Celebration of 15 years of Emarika Preschool.
- + All our scholarship students passed the national examinations.
- + 3 Sethule scholarship students were selected for leadership position in their schools .
- + We equipped students with vocational & essential daily-living skills.
- + Partnered with the department of the Registrar general; making it easier to obtain birth certificate for children.
- + Training 13 Community Care Workers (CCWs) to continue raising awareness of the important of birth certificate in their villages.
- + Starting the Mental health support program
- + Registration as a Public Voluntary Organisation.

10 Partnerships

- + All Saints Church, Vevey, CH
- + Calsto Care, Bulawayo, ZW
- + ChildLine, ZW
- + Däster-Schild Stiftung, Bern CH
- + Department of Social Development, ZW
- + EE Brian Smith, Dorton, UK
- + Emarika Foundation, Geneva, CH
- + Emotional Logic, Tavistock, UK
- + E'Pap Foundation, ZW
- + First Church, Wenham, USA

- + Frauenverein Münsingen, CH
- + Friends of Sethule Worldwide
- + GEWA die Stiftung für berufliche Integration Zollikofen, CH
- + Greendale Foundation, Geneva, CH
- + Imholz Stiftung Zug, CH
- + Kirchgemeinde Münsingen, CH
- + Kirchgemeinde Muri-Gümligen, CH
- + Leysin American School, CH
- + Living Well Church, Rotorua, NZ
- + Lowes Wong Junior School, Southwell, UK
- + Malvern College Switzerland
- + McCabe Charity, London, UK
- + Mudgeway Community, Plymouth, UK
- + National Foods, ZW
- + Pfarrei Dreikönigen, Zürich, CH
- + Riverside Church, Southwell, UK
- + Roger Haus Stiftung Uster, CH
- + Save the Children, ZW
- + Schellenberg Stiftung, Frauenfeld, CH
- + Swiss Friends of Sethule Orphans' Trust
- + TMR Welfare-Stiftung, Arbaz, CH
- + Westlake Church, St-Sulpice, CH
- + Whitelands Ladies, Roehampton, UK
- + Zimbabwe Aids Network, ZW
- + National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, ZW
- + Zimbabwe Aids Network, ZW
- + And other Swiss foundations that do not wish to be named.

11 Administration

Zimbabwe Trustees

- + Chairperson: Dr Noma Ndiweni, PhD
- + Treasurer: Mr Thulani Ndlovu, BAccSci
- + Community Advisor: Rev Clopas Ncube, BA
- + Education Advisor: Mrs Gladys Njaya, M Ed+
- + Legal Advisor: Mr Bheki Nhliziyo, LLB, LLM
- + Director: Mrs Thabbeth Cotton, BA

Sethule Staff



Part of the Sethule Staff members

Top: Thelma Hove, Kenneth Ndlovu, Michelle Ndlovu, Skhu Tshuma, Perpetua Sibanda, Nesisa Ndlovu, Blessing Khoza

Bottom: Philippa Nduku, Nonceba Nyathi & Nonhlanhla Green.

12 Conclusion & Focus for 2023

Because of the eased COVID 19 regulations and the new partnerships made, Sethule Orphans' Trust has seen much growth this year. Being now registered as a Public Voluntary Organisation, we shall be able to serve more vulnerable children in poor rural communities. Our hope for 2023 is:

- + To continue to serve the rural villages to the best of our ability
- + To empowering children to be the best version of themselves
- + To assisting orphans and vulnerable children by giving them the best possible education
- + To contribute towards easing poverty among marginalised families.

We thank most warmly our very generous supporters for all their assistance and selfless help over the last year.

Report written by Thabbeth Cotton